Tuesday January 27 1981
No 60,836
Price twenty pence

THE TIMES

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How Mao's callous widow lusted for power, page 12

Nine MPs rally to Council for Social Democracy

Nine right-wing Labour backbenchers were recruited yesterday to the proposed Council for Social Democracy and there is the possibility of more coming forward soon. It was clear last night that some potential recruits were annoyed they had not been invited with the nine MPs to a meeting in Dr David Owen's Commons room. He said the birth of a social democratic party was very close

More Labour recruits likely

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

The Council for Social Democracy, the proposed Labour Party breakaway group, yesterday recruited nine right-wing backbenchers with the possibility of more supporters in the near future.

But after a meeting in Dr David Owen's room at the House of Commons, one of the leading members of the so-called "gang of four", it was clear last night that some potential recruits were annoyed that they had not been asked to attend.

Those who were invited to the meeting and declared their support were: Mr Tom Bradley (Leicester, East), Mr Richard Crawshaw (Liverpool, Toxteth), a deputy Speaker in the Commons: Mr Tom Ellis (Wrexham), Mr John Horam (Gateshead, West), Mr Robert Mac Lennan (Caithness and Sutherland), Mr John Roper (Farnworth), Mr Neville Sandelson (Hayes and Harlington), Mr Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne, East) and Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby).

After the meeting, which was also attended by Mr William Rodgers, another member of the "gang of four", the group issued a statement stating: "We shall campaign individually and collectively, inside and outside Parliament, for the cause of social democracy."

The Council for Social Democracy, whose other leading members are Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr Roy Jenkins, has signalled its intention of forming a breakaway group unless there is a dramatic reversal of Labour policy, an event which it regards as extremely unlikely.

Dr Owen said on BBC radio yesterday that the birth of a social democratic party was "very close". It would take a few months to gather support and prepare for the split with the Labour Party.

He did however, add: "If you believe in miracles, I suppose it is possible that Michael Foot could come forward with such a complete change in direction of the Labour Party then we would be bound to consider it."

Dr Owen said it was not possible to set up a new party overnight. He said: "You cannot set up a party on the view of four people. We can give the leadership and we will give the leadership. We have got to involve thousands and eventually you have got to involve millions.

"I think what we will hopefully do over the next few months is demonstrate to people that the real Labour Party has changed beyond the point where you can continue to honestly support it."

Mr Rodgers said the nine recruits were all still members of the Labour Party.

"But I am afraid in the light of all that has gone before that it is very possible that we are now moving away and to something new, however sad that will be". Mr Rodgers said in an interview on the commercial television's *News at One*

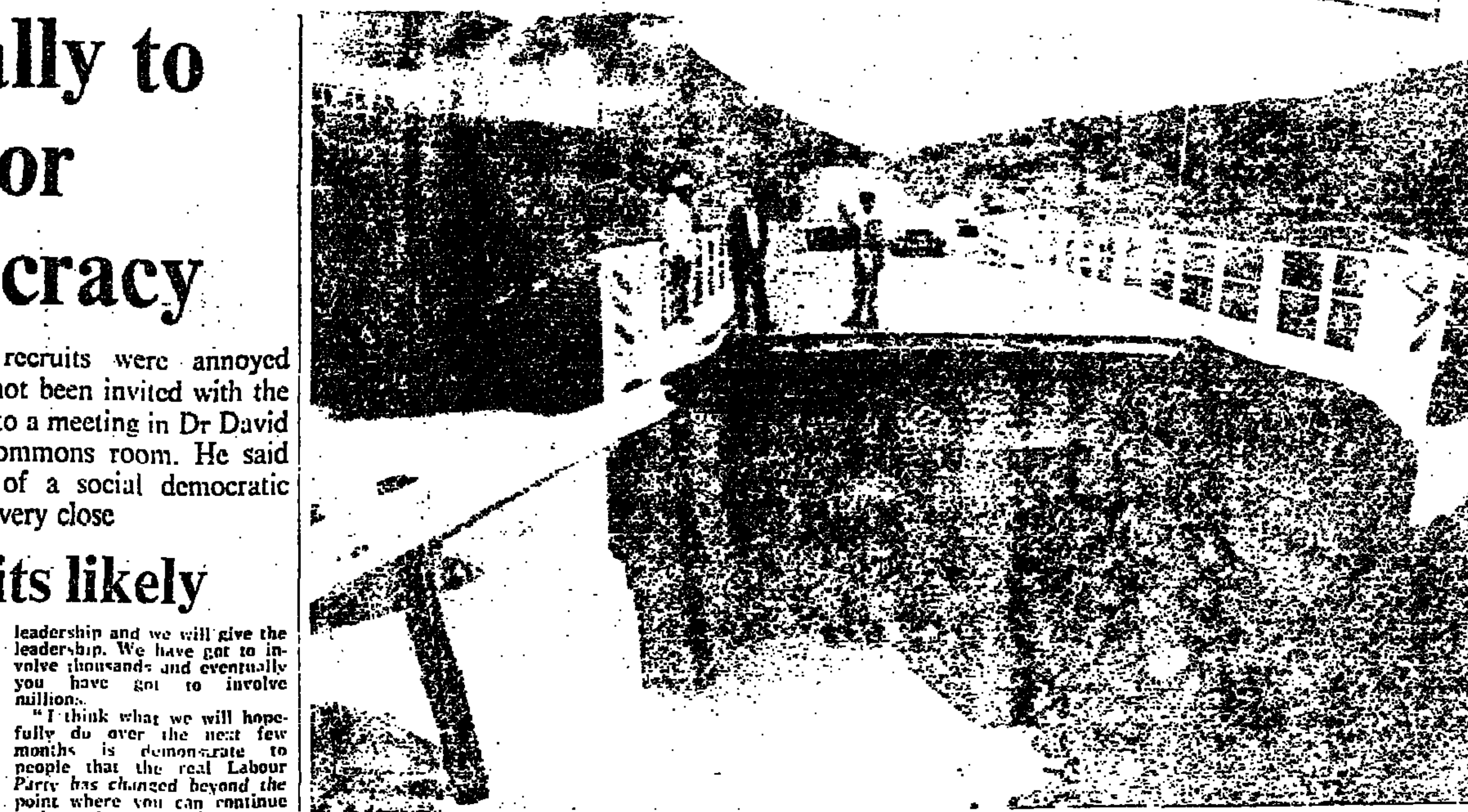
Asked when the rebel MPs would resign the whip and when he would resign from the Shadow Cabinet, Mr Rodgers replied: "That remains to be seen and we shall announce it as we move along, but at this stage, and this was the real purpose of our declaration yesterday, and I think the purpose of the 11 of us this morning making clear where we stand, we are rallying opinion and this is very important indeed.

Mr Rodgers said it was probable that there could be a new party by the summer.

Resignation call: The Labour Party in Wrexham last night passed a vote of no confidence in their MP, Mr Tom Ellis, and called on him to resign from the party (a correspondent writes from Wrexham).

I can't decide if I'm a Right-wing Traitor or a moderate Social Democrat..

Warning to Liberals and photographs, page 2



One of several bridges washed away by floods near Laingsburg in Cape Province yesterday.

120 missing as floods swamp S African town

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 26

Up to 120 people may have died in the small town of Laingsburg in the western Cape after one of the worst floods in South Africa for almost 50 years.

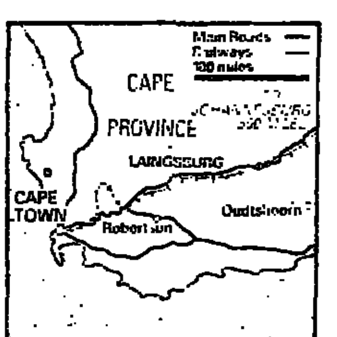
As rescuers fought their way through mud and debris today, the local police commissioner announced that nine bodies had been discovered and 109 other people were known to be missing, believed dead.

In Parliament this afternoon Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, announced that the Government had set in motion emergency measures to aid survivors in Laingsburg and other people in the area whose homes and crops have been severely damaged by storms.

He said that emergency medical supplies, food, tents and bedding were being flown to Laingsburg and that troops and special police units had been sent to the area.

Laingsburg is a small, pretty, sheepfarming town on the banks of the Buffels river which flows through the barren Karoo region down to the Cape.

However, 12 inches of rain during the past 24 hours transformed a normally docile river into a torrent. One survivor said that a "massive wall of water" thundered down through the centre of the town, knocking down houses and sweeping away cars as it went.



Today, two thirds of the town was still under three to four feet of water. Between 150 and 200 houses were reported to have been destroyed including an old people's home. Fourteen of the home's residents were found seeking refuge on the local rugby pitch this morning but the rest are still missing.

Colonel Herman Merkel, the divisional commissioner of police for the south-western districts, said that Laingsburg looked like a battlefield. Cars were piled on each other. Several people trapped on roofs had watched helplessly as others fell off and drowned, he said.

Fourteen Air Force helicopters were being used in the rescue operations. They were carrying supplies and lifting out people trapped in their homes or stranded in vehicles.

Many other areas of the south-western Cape were also *affected by gales and floods* which destroyed millions of pounds worth of fruit and crops. Particularly badly hit were wine farmers around the Hex river valley whose vines were flattened by the rains. Innumerable cattle and sheep have drowned in the floods.

Winds of up to 60 mph swept across Table Bay outside Cape Town yesterday and early today, causing disruption to shipping in and out of the harbour. Most of the main rail system passing through the Karoo has been washed away along a 150-mile stretch, cutting Cape Town off from the rest of the country.

Along the "garden route" between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth strong winds felled telephone poles, power cables and trees and sent landslides of mud into dozens of homes.

Bulky men clear path to Islamic disunity

From Robert Fisk
Taif, Saudi Arabia, Jan 26

You had only to watch the Arab leaders arriving this morning at the glass and prestressed concrete Conference Palace in Taif to comprehend the nature of Islamic disunity.

King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, it is true, breezed from his limousine with a self-confident flourish, his blue uniformed praetorian guard trotting eagerly behind.

But President Assad of Syria was almost smothered by his own security corps, tough bulky men from the Damascus "Mokhabarat" who walked sideways up the marble steps and backwards through the great doors at the top.

President Saddam Husain of Iraq was even more enthusiastically protected.

His wrap-around bodyguards leapt from the flowerbeds and ranks of camera crews, shouldering reporters and Saudi policemen from their path so that when the Iraqi Baath party's most illustrious scion eventually clambered from his armoured Cadillac—he had some trouble unlocking his door—it was simply not possible to see more than his eyebrows and hair.

It was left to Mr Yassir Arafat to slow the pace.

When the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman arrived, the last of 33 Muslim leaders to leave his hotel this morning, he climbed with nonchalant ease from his Buick, flicked his right hand in the air for a few moments and then, unsmiling but followed at a discreet distance by a broad gentleman with a shoulder holster, paraded slowly past the television cameras.

The third Islamic summit has, after all, been called the "Jerusalem and Palestine conference" and Mr Arafat always knows how to make an entrance. Perhaps he even wanted to emphasize the mutual animosity of President Assad and President Husain, an index of Arab suspicion from which the Palestinians are supposedly, though not really, immune.

It was the Gulf war which dominated the summit today.

King Khalid appealed yesterday for unity among Islamic nations when he spoke in the Great Mosque at Mecca and it was left to Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General, to take up this appeal in slightly different if more specific terms.

With the somewhat insubstantial optimism to which his critics often refer, the tall, ascetic figure of the Secretary General appeared at the rostrum of the conference hall to note that "there seems to be a measure of agreement on the possible elements of negotiations" to end the Gulf war.

President Husain looked on in grim silence. President Assad, Iran's most important Arab ally, did likewise. Dr Waldheim, it turned out, had drawn his optimism from the similarity of views expressed in Tehran and Baghdad about the future demarcation of shipping lanes in the Shatt al-Arab waterway. It was "imperative", he said, that the conflict should be brought to an end.

President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan agreed in a more vehement and political fashion. The conflict between "brotherly Islamic countries" was a tragic

Continued on page 6, col 1

Rail union backs voting change

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The right-wing revolt against Labour's union-dominated party leadership electoral college gained momentum yesterday when leaders of the railwaymen and engineering workers backed steps to reopen the constitutional issue.

There are moves under way to table a constitutional amendment to the annual party conference in October that would shift the MPs' share of votes in the electoral college from 30 per cent to 50 per cent. It is a strategy that has the tacit support of the party leader, Mr Michael Foot.

As the implications of the Wembley conference voting sank in yesterday, some moderate union leaders were openly advertising their misgivings about taking "too much" power in the process of choosing the Labour leader. Under the formula adopted on Saturday, the unions will have 40 per cent of the votes, with the remainder divided equally between MPs and constituency parties.

Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said he was sure that unions would be looking at ways of reversing the Wembley decision. "For the same reason that the party's national executive never accept a decision that they don't like, I would say other people have the same right to change this to what they think it ought to be."

Mr David Basnett, chairman of Trade Unions for Labour Victory, who first hinted that the constitutional issue could be reopened, would not elaborate further on his prediction that a union would take up Mr Foot's invitation to restore the moderate formula for an electoral college.

Other union leaders were less reticent. Mr Terence Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said on arriving for a meeting of the TUC's "inner cabinet" that he did not consider the leadership issue closed. He hoped those threatening to break away would stay and continue the fight.

While Mr Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, conceded that those unhappy with the Wembley formula could raise it again, he said: "You cannot keep going all the time until you get the result you want. We could have so many conferences you would be getting dizzy after a time." The TGWU's 1,250,000 block vote was cast for the winning formula.

Letters, page 13

Ten injured in Ulster bomb blasts

From Craig Seton
Belfast

Bombs exploded in six centres in Northern Ireland last night in a coordinated IRA operation that slightly injured 10 people, including three men of the Ulster Defence Regiment. The damage to property was severe.

The injuries were in Portadown, co Armagh, where a car bomb destroyed or damaged more than 30 shops and offices.

Three others exploded at about the same time, just before 6.30 pm, in three other towns.

Less than two hours later a bomb exploded in Londonderry and two exploded by the Belfast-Dublin railway line on the border in south Armagh. The line was closed.

Murder inquiry urged, page 4

Cabinet discusses imposing special terms on the sale of Times Newspapers

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Cabinet Ministers are discussing the possibility of the Government imposing special conditions on the sale of Times Newspapers to Mr Rupert Murdoch without referring his purchase to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. That was learnt last night after a meeting of a dozen ministers with Mrs Margaret Thatcher in the chair.

Mr Murdoch's bid was intensively discussed without, apparently, a decision being reached.

It was said in Whitehall that the decision was now for Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade. It was not known when Mr Biffen might announce his decision, although he will come under pressure to do so when he speaks in today's emergency Commons debate.

The Government was evidently taken by surprise by the Speaker's assent to an emergency debate, and not pleased. Last night there was unusual restraint in authoritative quarters in mentioning the details. But, clearly, collective Cabinet committee advice was given to Mr Biffen.

The Government, wary of a political outcry if the Monopolies Commission is seen to be bypassed, seems to be searching for middle ground. The idea of imposing Government conditions to require that the editorial independence of *The Times* be maintained in the form of quid pro quo for Mr Biffen's consent to Mr Murdoch's purchase, is being canvassed as one way to cut straight to the likely end result of a monopolies commission report.

The Government's keen concern over the legal thicket that could entrap the Secretary of State if he avails himself of one of the exceptions in the Fair Trade Act, 1973, as he must if he is not to refer the issue to the commission, was confirmed by the presence at last night's meeting of Sir Ian Percival, the Solicitor-General.

Several ministers favour a *reference to the commission* so that the issues can be investigated in the public interest. But other ministers, apparently including the Prime Minister, believe that the papers could be jeopardized by any delay in concluding negotiations beyond the three-week deadline that the owners, Thomson British Holdings (TBH), and Mr Murdoch, have set. Mr *Murdoch has objected to a* reference to the commission.

Continued on page 2, col 6

BL given £990m state aid over the next two years without conditions

By Edward Townsend

BL has been rescued once again by the Government and is to receive £990m additional state funding over the next two years. The new injection will bring the total amount of public money given to the company since 1975 to £2,065m.

The additional money has been granted without conditions and the Government is relying upon "regular monitoring" by the BL board of its new corporate plan and on a further promise by Sir Michael Edwardes, the chairman, that the company's operations will be reviewed quickly if there is "a substantial deviation in performance".

BL is believed to have made a loss approaching £400m last year and in the new corporate plan, now backed by the Government, it envisages diminished losses this year and in 1982 and a return to profitability in 1983.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, announcing state support for the plan in the Commons yesterday, said the Government would provide £620m in new equity in 1981-82 and £370m in the following year. The company's four-year plan calls for a further injection of £150m in 1984 and 1985.

Sir Keith announced that as soon as the Industry Bill became law, *the shareholding* in BL would be transferred to the Government from the National Enterprise Board, a move that has been expected since the withdrawal of Rolls-Royce from the NEB's portfolio more than a year ago.

His announcement had a mixed reaction in the Commons, with some Conservative backbenchers expressing disquiet. Mr George Gardiner, MP for Reigate, said there would be disappointment that firm undertakings had not been gained from the trade unions, while Mr John Stokes, MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, said he hoped "these vast payments will be the last, or are we going year by year to fill the bath with the plug out?"

Sir Michael, who has acceded to a government request to remain BL chairman at least until the end of 1982, said later: "We welcome the Government's decision which clearly recognizes the determination of BL and its workforce to make a success of the business."

He said that last year the company was free of disputes for 98.6 per cent of working hours, a 76 per cent reduction in man hours lost compared with 1979, resulting in the *company's best industrial relations* record. "We believe this has made a significant contribution to the Government's continuing support."

At a press conference, Sir Keith said that discussions in his department and the Cabinet had looked for the "middle ground" between acceptance and rejection of the BL request "*but there was none*".

Rejection would have cost more and caused the loss of 150,000 jobs in BL and other companies, so either way "the taxpayer was going to be clobbered".

The taxpayer had got locked into BL so that the only way to escape was to spend money. "We did not inherit many of these and we certainly are not supporting any more", he added.

Sir Keith and his ministerial colleagues have been impressed by the BL board's determination to sell the company's non-automotive subsidiaries, which are likely to include the Alvis military vehicle and Coventry Climax forklift truck operations, and to enter more collaboration deals with other manufacturers as a means of attracting private capital.

Parliamentary report, page 8
Leading article, page 13
Essential help, page 17

Education report fails to guide

Local authorities hoping for guidance on providing education for 16 to 19-year-olds will get little from the report of the Macfarlane committee. It recommends that as no single pattern is generally preferable each authority should be left to decide what provision to make in the light of its circumstances. One criticism is that it does nothing to help to provide a badly *needed national policy* of education and training related to industry, commerce, employment and unemployment Page 4

Bonn crisis erupts

A rebellion over defence policy by 24 Social Democrat deputies in Bonn has raised fresh problems for Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, struggling to keep his coalition together. The deputies want defence spending to be cut by £210m and the money used for development *aid* Page 5

Mr Walesa's mission

Mr Lech Walesa made an urgent visit to southern Poland to try to avert a clash between peasant farmers demanding recognition for their free trade union and the authorities. Solidarity has called for action by other workers to support them Page 6

Seamen's separate deal

Canadian Pacific, one of the employers involved in the seamen's dispute, has broken ranks and reached a separate deal with the National Union of Seamen. Neither side would give figures but the union hailed the settlement as a breakthrough Page 2

Manager departs: Crystal Palace Football Club have parted company with Malcolm Allison, their manager (above), for the second time only two days after Mr Ron Noades, the Wimbledon chairman, had bought the shares of his Palace counterpart, Mr Raymond Bloye. Dario Gradi, the Wimbledon manager, was named as successor to Mr Allison, who will receive compensation equivalent to his salary until the end of the season Page 10

New Fraser clash

Sir Hugh Fraser, chairman of the House of Fraser stores group, has said that a meeting of the group's directors called for tomorrow could involve moves to oust him from the board. Also expected to be on the agenda is the future role of S. G. Warburg, the group's merchant bank, and Cazenove, its stockbroker. Page 15

Tehran: *The hostage deal was defended by the* Iranian Speaker as the freed Americans relaxed with their families 6

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 22, 24; Appointments, 21, 22; Sale Room and antiques, 22

£271m for Britain from EEC

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 26

Britain will receive £271m over the next few days from the EEC in partial reimbursement of its contribution to the Community budget last year, the European Commission announced today.

Added to the first repayment of £98m announced at the end of December this means that Britain will have received 53 per cent of the total refund of £703m on its 1980 budget contribution promised under the agreement reached by EEC foreign ministers last May.

The Government expects another substantial part of the refund to be paid in March leaving only about 20 per cent owing, which will be released later in the year.

This timetable is in line with the Government's desire that the bulk of each annual refund should be paid by the end of its own financial year, which runs from April to April.

Of the total refund for 1980, £281m will be a straight rebate, and the remaining £422m will consist of EEC-financed expenditure on public investment projects in Britain, particularly in less developed regions. The EEC money will meet between 20 and 30 per cent of the cost of the projects concerned.

The money made available so far under the second heading is earmarked for development programmes in Wales and the north west of England.

The refund of Britain's 1981 budget contribution will amount at current exchange rates to £770m. Arrangements thereafter have yet to be decided.

The Government contends that the refunds enable public expenditure programmes to be sustained at higher levels than could otherwise have been afforded. Critics of the Government, however, say that the money is being used simply to reduce the burden on the national exchequer and not to increase spending on underdeveloped regions.

Seamen claim pay breakthrough as operator makes deal

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

The National Union of Seamen yesterday hailed a settlement with Canadian Pacific, described as the sixth biggest British-based merchant fleet operator, as a breakthrough in the month-old national pay dispute.

The union said that the settlement met the essential elements in the claim, and the decision by Canadian Pacific to break ranks came as the General Council for British Shipping said that 138 vessels had been halted by strike action.

In a statement jointly issued with the union, the company, which said last night that the settlement would cover about 800 British and foreign ratings, all represented by the union, commented that it was unwilling "to witness a further deterioration of the existing good industrial relations" with their seamen.

Neither side was prepared to say how far the cost of the settlement exceeded the maximum 12 per cent offer so far tabled by the general council.

The company denied unofficial estimates that the settlement might be between 16 and 17 per cent, but did not contest the union's claim that it had agreed to pay a high proportion of overtime at time and a half rates.

Mr James Slater, general secretary of the union, said: "We see the settlement as a breakthrough and obviously we hope that other companies will follow suit."

The company said it had taken no steps to resign from the general council. Mr Adrian [illegible], the council president, said: "Obviously we regret very much that Canadian Pacific has ventured into separate negotiations."

He said that of the ships operated by Canadian Pacific only three were directly British owned, four were managed by the British operation for the Canadian parent company, and most of the seamen on the rest were Filipinos.

The company was adamant that the deal would affect all 800 ratings on the 31 ships maintained on the United Kingdom registry, and that all were covered by NUS terms and conditions and were represented by the union.

As with the 12 per cent national offer rejected by the union, the basic rate component of the Canadian Pacific deal will add 9.4 per cent to £64 basic rate of foreign-going seamen. Average earnings for foreign-going qualified seamen in the British merchant fleet as a whole are about £125 a week.

The union's disputes committee deferred until today a decision about whether to exempt banana traffic from the Windward Islands, in the West Indies, from the strike action.

The Government of St Lucia yesterday appealed through its High Commission in London to the union to give a special dispensation to vessels operated by Geest Produce on the grounds that the trade was vital to the economies of the islands, badly affected by a hurricane last year.

The union will also consider a telegram from the St Vincent Government.

Dockers stay out: The three-week-old strike of dockers at Aberdeen is to continue after the men yesterday rejected a marginally improved pay offer, *a staff reporter writes from Aberdeen*. The dockers are not due to meet again until next week.

The strike is causing hardship in Orkney and Shetland, where ferry sailings have been drastically reduced.

Water workers' delegates vote to back a strike

By Our Labour Staff

Delegates representing 1,300 waterworkers in the National Union of Public Employees voted yesterday to back a strike next month unless a 7.9 per cent offer is improved.

The National Water Council is expected to meet this week to consider the next stage in what is likely to prove one of the most critical set of negotiations in the public sector. The executive of the General and Municipal Workers Union last week voted to sanction a strike if necessary.

The two biggest Civil Service unions have called special national conferences to endorse a strategy for the Whitehall pay claim in the light of the Government's decision on a 6 per cent cash limit and a suspension of the Pay Research Unit mechanism for this year.

The Society of Civil and Public Servants meets on Wednesday and will consider plans for a £2 levy on each member to fund industrial action if necessary, and the Civil and Public Services Association holds its conference the next day.

Union seeks freeze on Tube fares for 4 years

By Our Labour Staff

A 25 per cent reduction in London Underground fares, followed by a four-year freeze on fares, are central demands in a campaign for substantially increased investment in the system launched yesterday by the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR).

The union, which claims 90 per cent membership of staff on the system, made clear that the campaign was being timed to coincide with the Greater London Council elections.

Mr Sidney Weighell, the union's general secretary, said that the Paris Metro, which a union delegation recently visited, was "far superior to the London Underground in every respect".

He said the reason was that during the 1970s £2,000m had been spent on public transport in Paris. That was four times the amount London Transport had been able to spend in the same period.

Mr Weighell said that in contrast to European metropolitan transit systems, policies for London Transport had meant a cut in support by a third in the past four years and an increase in the average fare for that period from 15p to 50p. If that continued it would leave "millions of passengers unable to travel on the Underground".

Mr Weighell called for a substantial increase in capital investment, a fares freeze and a "more frequent and reliable service, cleaner and more attractive stations, improved customer care and less violence".

The NUR acknowledges that the action on fares which it sought would over the next two years mean an increase of £28.75 in the average rate bill of London householders, if met from that source.

The union will nevertheless argue in its campaign that there would be a net gain of £1.50 a week to the average family using the Underground.

The result would halt the slide towards lower standards caused by a reduction in use of the Underground, Mr Weighbell said.

He added that London Transport figures showed that total passenger journeys had decreased from 672 million in 1970 to 594 million in 1979.

Questioned about lower manning levels on the Metro and one-man operation of Paris underground trains, Mr Weighell said: "We have made clear repeatedly that we are not against new technology. We have been willing to talk about manning where there is the proper investment."

The union would, however, want shorter working time and longer holidays

Photograph by Brian Harris

Mr Rupert Murdoch explaining his policies to editorial staff at "The Times" yesterday, watched by Mr William Rees-Mogg, the editor.

Mr Murdoch outlines his plans for 'The Times'

By Dan van der Vat

Mr Rupert Murdoch yesterday gave editorial staff of *The Times* a taste of his ideas for its future under his proposed ownership and used graphic language to reinforce his public promise to guarantee editorial independence and to allay doubts about his intentions.

"What if I found a way of tearing up all those guarantees and fired an editor? The answer is, there would be a terrible public stink, and it would destroy the paper", Mr Murdoch said. The only reason he was opposed to a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was the length of time it took.

Mr Murdoch, who has until February 12 to reach agreement with the unions on reducing manning levels and new technology if he is to take over the paper, its three supplements and *The Sunday Times* from the Thomson Organisation, told journalists on *The Times* and the supplements that he was confident the paper could be made viable.

By "viable" he meant no more than the achievment of the smallest of profits in three, four or five years, he said. It would be necessary to learn from the mistakes of the last expansion after Thomson took over in 1967. His aim for the circulation of the paper was to turn a downward trend into an upward one, no matter how modest, which would give it greater credibility among readers and advertisers alike.

While he saw no need to change its character, Mr Murdoch thought *The Times* would benefit from additions to the services it offered its readers so that it would be of greater value and appeal at home rather than being taken off to work by commuters.

He said more could be done for women and the addition on one or two days a week of separately printed sections expanding the services offered to readers could be very successful. He hoped more space could be found for news coverage, with greater flexibility for matching space to big events.

"You have seen the guarantees of editorial independence I gave to the national directors (of Times Newspapers Ltd) ... I can say that I did so with the greatest of ease. I have no intention of interfering with any opinions in the paper. I will complain if the facts are wrong", Mr Murdoch said.

Asked to elaborate, Mr Murdoch said he could "*sell myself to you as the least of the alternative evils . . . I think I have locked myself in, particularly with the power I have given of absolute right of hiring and firing editors* (by the national directors).

"What if I found a way of tearing up all those guarantees and fired an editor? The answer is, there would be a terrible public stink, and it would destroy the paper.

"What I have really given them the right to do is to force me to sell out. That is really the only alternative. I get on with these people or I sell out. Otherwise I would destroy what I am attempting to buy".

He went on to say that there would be redundancies among editorial staff, but that they would not be massive and would be based on voluntary redundancy, with the right to refuse offers from staff of special value to the paper.

He had many candidates for editor in mind and hoped to make an early statement, but the person put to the national directors would be a long-term choice because "a caretaker editor is a lame-duck editor". He ruled out staff participation in the selection of an editor.

Mr Murdoch conceded that new technology, which he hoped could be in full operation by printers in two years, would make deadlines earlier, but the "enormous savings" it would bring made it essential.

He denied that he was attempting to "hold a gun to Parliament" by giving a warning last week, that a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission of his bid for the titles would lead him to withdraw. He said he had been told that the commission could not complete its work in less than eight weeks.

A reference to it would mean interruption in publication, further losses of advertising revenue to other papers and uncertainty among the trade unions, who would not know they were dealing with the actual would-be purchaser.

"I don't feel I have anything to worry about at all from a ... reference, from the point of view of being approved or not. I am quite happy to be examined, if they suggest that is the right thing, but it can't happen and fit into the Thomson timetable", Mr Murdoch said.

He added that he was just as committed to making the three supplements viable, though he foresaw them eventually being printed elsewhere on contract. Further supplements could well be founded later.

But *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* would go on printing at Gray's Inn Road. It was not necessary to move them to make them viable, but it was essential to cut production costs and increase advertising revenues while raising the price of the paper as little as possible.

NUJ deputation meets Mr Biffen

Continued from page 1

Before the ministerial meeting yesterday morning, Mr Murdoch was received by Mr Biffen, who, at a separate meeting, also saw Mr Gordon Brunton, the chief executive of TBH, and Sir Denis Hamilton, chairman of Times Newspapers Ltd.

In the afternoon Mr Biffen gave a patient hearing to an informal deputation of journalists from *The Sunday Times* and *The Times* who sought to explain why the National Union of Journalists' chapels (office branches) at both newspapers had passed motions urging a reference to the commission.

The leaders of the chapels, Mr Eric Jacobs and Mr Jacob Ecclestone, who had attended the meeting with Mr Biffen, also called on Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, to explain further why their members believed that the public interest and editorial safeguards would be strengthened after an examination by the commission, and any conditions subsequently imposed

Bid supported: *By last night 100 journalists (out of about 280) at The Times had signed a statement supporting Mr Murdoch's bid (a Staff Reporter writes).*

The statement said: "Not all the editorial staff of *The Times* see a Murdoch takeover as a disaster, although the public may be forgiven for thinking so after the spate of one-sided comments since the announcement of the bid for the group. We, the undersigned journalists, think that the Murdoch bid offers the best hope for preserving the five titles."

Three-hour debate: The proposed purchase and the question of a reference to the commission is to be debated in the Commons today under the House's emergency procedure (Our Parliamentary Correspondent writes).

Mr George Thomas, the Speaker, agreed that the matter was of sufficient importance for the business of the day to be postponed to allow the three-hour debate to take place.

Mr John Smith, Opposition spokesman on Trade, making the application, said that the acquisition of the papers by Mr Murdoch, would create a large concentration of newspaper power in one ownership. That was precisely the circumstances which Parliament had in mind when it passed the newspaper mergers reference provisions of the Act.

He believed that if the reference was coupled with a request for an early report, a proper examination could be made within the several weeks set aside by the parties. The matter was urgent, because a decision was imminent.

When the Speaker asked if Mr Smith had the agreement of the House for a debate, the required number of 40 Labour MPs rose to signify approval.

Parliamentary report, page 8

Minister says jobless are useful 'reserve'

By Our Political Editor

Making a virtue of the "inevitable" unemployment caused by government policies, a junior minister yesterday described the jobless as a "reserve" to be used to increase future production.

"To have labour available is an increase in our industrial potential", Mr Nicholas Ridley, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said.

"I have good news for you. Our labour is cheaper to employ than that of our major competitors. Our interest rates are coming down. Our inflation rate is coming down.

"We are becoming increasingly competitive internationally. Britain is now a most attractive place for industrial investment", he said in a speech to his constituency women's advisory division in Cirencester and Tewkesbury.

Mr Ridley, a Thatcherite monetarist, who has been little heard of since being posted to his present position, took his novel defence of government policy to the point of deriding Mr Harold Macmillan and Mr Edward Heath.

Noting that some people were criticizing the Government for both cutting public spending and not restraining monetary growth, he said: "Some people make both charges in the same breath. Some, like the Tory ex-prime ministers, are not quite sure which charge they are making".

Mr Ridley maintained that the Government "may have got it about right", and went on: "Bringing down the rate of inflation can only be done by restricting the money supply, and doing that inevitably causes difficulties

Again, he said, an inevitable consequence of the progress the Government was making against inflation was the "pressure on industry to become competitive and the high level of unemployment".

Ministers are not usually so candid. The government line has been that unemployment was not inevitable as a result of its policies

But vaunting the Government's achievements in getting down inflation and enjoying a high pound Mr Ridley said: "Another few years of such progress will give us one of the lowest inflation rates in the world, a healthy balance of payments and a competitive industry".

Equity to study new offer from BBC today

By Kenneth Gosling

A revised offer from the BBC will be considered today by the council of Equity, the actors' union, which rejected a two-tier offer last week.

The BBC proposed a 10 per cent increase for television work from February to April, increased to 15 per cent in May, lasting to April, 1982. Some variation in dates has been made in the new offer, which does not meet the union demand for an extra 2½ per cent.

Members meeting in London next Sunday will be asked to take industrial action failing a better offer. The BBC offer would raise the minimum rate from £125 to £141 a week.

Correction

Increases mentioned in a report about bacon and butter yesterday referred to the EEC tax on food, not prices. Consequential price rises will be much smaller, and may not occur this week.

Mortgage chief urges end to stamp duty on houses

By Rosemary Unsworth
Financial Staff

Stamp duty on the conveyance of owner-occupied houses should be abolished in the March Budget, Mr Leonard Williams, chairman of the Building Societies Association, has said in a letter to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr Williams said the average house price was slightly above £25,000 and attracted a duty of £250. In London the average price was more than £30,000 and stamp duty cost more than £450.

Until recently stamp duty was payable only on more expensive houses but inflation had turned it in effect into a house purchase tax, "something which is at odds with the stated policy of this Government to encourage owner-occupation".

The letter added that when the level at which stamp duty starts was fixed at £15,000 in 1974, 16 per cent of houses mortgaged to building societies were subject to the duty. That proportion increased steadily until it reached 71 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1979, reflecting a doubling in house prices over the period.

Mr Williams said the increase in stamp duty thresholds in the last Budget was "very modest". The lower threshold now starts at £20,000.

Of those who bought houses with the help of building society mortgages in the third quarter of 1980, 53 per cent paid £20,000 or more and therefore had to pay the duty, he said.

If the Government, which it is estimated will receive about £225m in 1980-81 from stamp duty on the conveyance of residential property, does not abolish the charge, the thresholds for its imposition should be restored to its 1974 level which would take it to £33,000.

The association is also calling on the Chancellor to double the ceiling for mortgage loans eligible for tax relief to £50,000.

Liberals get warning on alliance

By Ian Bradley

A number of leading Liberals have fired an early-warning shot about any electoral alliance the party leadership might be contemplating with Labour social democrats.

Today's issue of the party newspaper, *Liberal News*, contains three articles, written before the Labour Party special conference last Saturday, which are highly critical of any Liberal involvement in the creation of a new centre party.

Mr Cyril Smith, MP for Rochdale and a long-standing opponent of a Liberal-social democratic alliance, says the he supports the efforts of Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, to convince Labour and Conservative MPs that their future does not lie with their present parties.

However, he adds that he would be "extremely apprehensive about any electoral pact or deal which would enable a fourth party to take breath or gain life. Such a move would be suicidal to the Liberal Party".

Mr Stephen Atack, a member of the party's national executive and former chairman of the Young Liberals, points to the "deep philosophical divide which separates Liberals and social democrats" and says that a substantial number of Liberal activists, including many councillors, parliamentary candidates and peers, would not be able to stomach an electoral pact with the social democrats.

The most strongly worded contribution comes from Dr Jeffery Roberts, who won a seat on Hackney council for the Liberals last October with a 40 per cent swing from Labour. He writes: "There are now two Liberal parties. One is engaged in the humble work of serving the people. The other, 'Nobs', Liberal Party is quietly engaged in selling it down the river for that highest and most honourable prize, a centre party".

Describing the "Nobs" Liberals as "social democrats who do not understand Liberalism and so do not prize it", he says it is important that they should recognize that "we are not slaving away in the East End (or anywhere else) to see Roy Jenkins *et al* use the Liberal Party as a doormat.

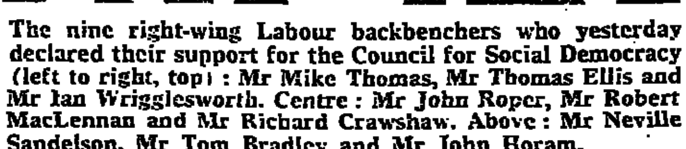
"If pressure is put on individual Liberal constituencies to stand down Liberal candidates to let 'centre party' nominees in, there will be a split in the Liberal Party".

The articles reflect a growing fear among local Liberal activists that the party leadership is in danger of making too many concessions to dissentient Labour social democrats

Mr Steel was almost certainly mindful of those fears when he issued a cautious statement of welcome on the formation of the Council for Social Democracy on Sunday.

The Liberal leader is likely to come under increasing pressure from his rank and file in the next few weeks to keep his distance from the new Council Mr Steel's response: Mr Steel said in a statement yesterday: "I welcome and share the view of the four Labour Party members that a realignment of British politics is vital. The principles outlined for the proposed Council for Social Democracy sound fine as far as they go, but they are obviously not comprehensive.

"When names are announced it should be possible for Liberals to enter a dialogue with them.



The nine right-wing Labour backbenchers who yesterday declared their support for the Council for Social Democracy (left to right, top): Mr Mike Thomas, Mr Thomas Ellis and Mr Ian Wrigglesworth. Centre: Mr John Roper, Mr Robert MacLennan and Mr Richard Crawshaw. Above: Mr Neville Sandelson, Mr Tom Bradley and Mr John Horam.

Cornish woods preservation order confirmed

By Our Planning Reporter

The Department of the Environment yesterday confirmed a tree preservation order on Calamansack woods, on the Helford estuary, in Cornwall.

The order was made by Kerrier District Council last summer after the county council, the Nature Conservancy and the Council for the Protection of Rural England had expressed concern at the prospect of the indigenous oaks being replaced by conifers.

Last week Mr J. C. Green, the owner of the 33-acre site, wrote to *The Times* stating that he had no intention of replacing the oaks, and that his management plan had been approved by the county council planning committee and by the National Trust, which owned property on the other side of the river.

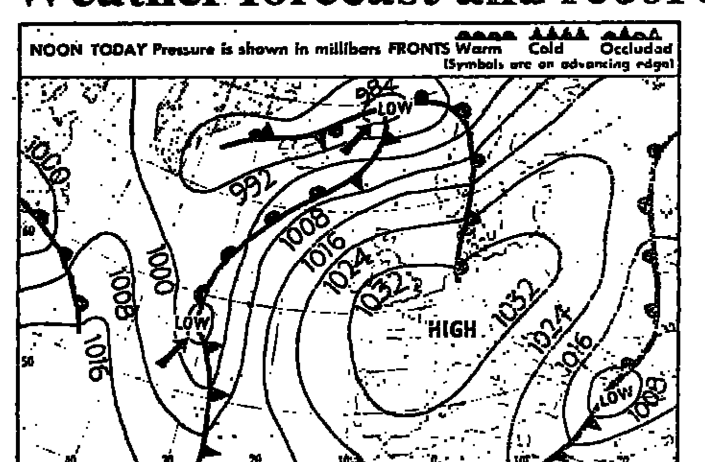
Cliff chapel to be saved by national park

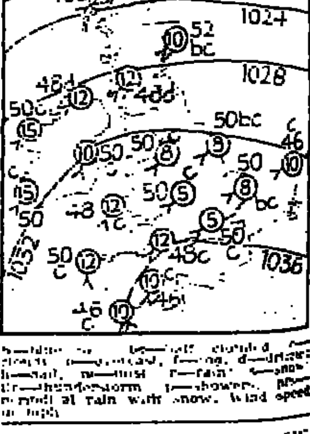
St Govan's chapel, built into a cleft in the spectacular cliffs near Bosherston, Dyfed, one of the great sights of Wales, is to be saved from decay by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park authority.

The stone chapel is surrounded by legends and can be reached only by a long flight of steps. No one knows when it was built. Some experts believe that it dates back to the eleventh century, while others say it was founded in the sixth century and built by St Govan's followers on the spot where he died in his cell in 586.

Who St Govan was is also a matter of conjecture and dispute, but majority opinion favours St Gobhan, abbot of Dairinis, in Wexford, Ireland, who came to Wales to seek the descendants of his Welsh teacher.

Weather forecast and recordings





Today

Sun rises: 7.46 am | Sun sets: 4.41 pm
Moon sets 10.58 am | Moon rises: 12.40 am

Last quarter: Tomorrow.

Lighting up: 5.11 pm to 7.15 am.

High water: London Bridge, 6.4 am, 6.3m; 6.35 pm, 6.3m. Avonmouth, 11.20 am, 11.1m; 11.41 pm, 10.5m. Dover, 3.15 am, 6.1m; 3.41 pm, 5.6m. Hull, 10.40 am, 6.3m; 10.51 pm, 6.5m. Liverpool, 3.31 am, 7.8m; 3.43 pm, 7.8m.

1ft = 0.3048m. 1m = 3.2808ft

A mild SW airstream covers the country.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE, E, NW and Central N England, E East Anglia, Midlands, Channel Islands: Dry, rather cloudy, perhaps a few bright intervals; wind SW, light; max temp 9° to 10°C (48° to 50°F).

Central S, SW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: Mostly dry, cloudy with hill and coastal fog; wind S, light; max temp 9° to 10°C (48° to 50°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Dry, rather cloudy with a few bright intervals; wind SW, moderate; max temp 10° to 11°C (50° to 52°F).

Central Highlands, NE and NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy with hill and coastal fog and occasional drizzle; wind SW, fresh: max temp 9° to 10°C (48° to 50°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Mild, rather cloudy, but mostly dry.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind W, moderate; sea slight.

English Channel (E), St George's Channel: Wind SW, moderate; sea slight.

Irish sea: Wind SW, fresh; sea moderate.

Tomorrow

London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9°C (48°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 7°C (45°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 86 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, a trace. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.2hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,033.2 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	c	11	57	Copenhgn	s	1	34	Locarno	s	[illegible]	[illegible]	Paris	f	7	45
Algiers	s	18	64	Dublin	c	9	48	London	c	9	48	Reykjavik	r	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amsterdm	c	6	43	Edinburgh	c	6	43	Luxembourg	f	5	41	Rome	s	15	[illegible]
Athens	f	10	50	Florence	c	6	43	Madrid	s	7	45	Ronaldswy	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Barcelona	s	12	54	Geneva	fog	-1	30	Majorca	s	14	57	S Francisco	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Beirut	r	11	52	Gibraltar	f	13	55	Malaga	s	11	52	Stockholm	s	-3	27
Berlin	s	0	32	Guernsey	f	9	48	Malta	c	15	59	Tel Aviv	c	13	[illegible]
Bermuda	r	17	63	Helsinki	s	-6	21	Miami	s	23	73	Toronto	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Biarritz	f	4	39	Innsbrck	sn	2	36	Moscow	c	-6	21	Venice	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	f	8	46	Istanbul	c	4	39	Munich	c	1	34	Vienna	sn	-1	[illegible]
Budapest	c	8	46	Jersey	f	9	48	Naples	c	0	32	Warsaw	c	-1	[illegible]
Chicago	c	[illegible]	[illegible]	L Palmas	s	20	68	Nice	c	13	55	Washington	f	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cologne	c	3	37	Lisbon	s	11	52	Oslo	s	-2	28	Zurich	c	2	36

Overseas selling prices

[illegible]

Barnsley miners' grip on constituency party challenged

From Ronald Kershaw
Barnsley

The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers has asked the national officers of the Labour Party for an inquiry into the representation of Yorkshire branches of the National Union of Mineworkers on the general management committee of Barnsley constituency Labour Party, with particular reference to the NUM area headquarters branch.

The matter is being handled by Mr David Hughes, national agent of the party.

The Barnsley Co-operative branch of Usdaw filed the request after members expressed concern at the dramatic increase in the numbers of delegates from NUM branches which led to a takeover of virtually all key positions in the constituency party by left-wing miners' nominees, generally attributed to the tactical skill of Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' president.

Usdaw emphasizes that it does not allege any irregularity, but is merely asking for information about the number of affiliated members and the number of delegates representing them.

It would appear that the number of delegates attending management committee meetings are representing several hundred branch members from the headquarters branch. As fewer than 50 NUM members are employed at the area headquarters Usdaw wants to know who the other members are.

Usdaw is also concerned about the frequency and regularity of properly constituted meetings

A spokesman said: "It was the area headquarters branch that moved a proposition which resulted in mandating Roy Mason, the MP for Barnsley, to support Michael Foot in the leadership election. We have had no information about the branch meeting that took this decision. "The headquarters branch is an unknown quantity and we just want things verified and clarified."

Mr Eric Ilsley, treasurer of the Barnsley constituency Labour Party, who is employed at the NUM area headquarters, said last night that the headquarters branch was able to send six delegates, the maximum number permitted from a branch, to the constituency party management committee.

Little guidance for authorities in report on providing education for 16-to-19 age group

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

No single pattern of educational provision for 16 to 19-year-olds is generally preferable, the Macfarlane committee says in its report published yesterday. It recommends that every local authority be left to decide what provision to make in the light of its own circumstances.

The various options are rehearsed: school sixth forms; "consortia" arrangements between schools; 11-16 schools feeding sixth-form pupils into a single 11-18 school; separate sixth-form colleges, tertiary colleges; and further education colleges.

The weaknesses and strengths of each option are explored, but none is given the committee's firm stamp of approval.

Local authorities hoping for guidance will get very little from this report, which is a compromise between those wanting to retain school sixth forms and those favouring a tertiary or sixth-form college solution.

The committee, chaired by Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, was set up jointly by the Government and the local authority associations in 1979 to review educational provision for 16 to 19-year-olds in England and Wales.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which was represented on the committee, immediately condemned the report for having failed to do anything to help to provide a badly needed national policy of education and training related to industry, commerce, employment and unemployment.

"The blinkered approach of the Macfarlane group prevented their looking at the context of education. That is more than a pity; it is a scandal", Mrs Nicole Harrison, chairman of the AMA's education committee, said.

Mr Neil Kinnock, MP, Labour's education spokesman, said that the report "consists mainly of penniless platitudes that do nothing to help youngsters, to assist educators or to resolve the multiplying problems in educational, economic and technological needs".

The National Association of Head Teachers described it as "the blandest document that has ever been produced by the Department of Education and Science".

Both the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers appeared fairly relieved that the committee had refrained from coming out in favour of one particular solution. They both have a vested interest in the continuation of school sixth forms, and the early drafts of the report had shown a bias in favour of the tertiary or sixth-form college "solution".

The only vestige of that original bias comes in a statement at the end of the report: "Some would say that educational merit, demography and financial constraints point inescapably to the adoption nationally of a break at 16.

"We think that there are indeed powerful arguments in favour of educating 16 to 19-year-olds in fairly large groups, and are clear that a scatter of small six forms offering an inadequate range of options at high cost must wherever possible be avoided.

"In some areas sixth-form or tertiary colleges may be the best solution both educationally and financially."

The report comments on the big differences in financial support for 16 to 19-year-olds, ranging from full-time students on a Youth Opportunities Programme allowance of £23.50 a week to part-time students receiving £13.10 a week in supplementary benefit (£17.05 if 18 or over), while other full-time students usually receive nothing.

Education for 16 to 19-year-olds. (Publications dispatch centre, Department of Education and Science, Honeypot Lane, Canons Park, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 1AZ; free).

Leading article, page 13

Whitehall brief: Defence community would fight to stop Mr Foot axing nuclear wea

Memory of 1940 may be behind devotion to the deterr

By Peter Hennessy

After a weekend of witnessing the Labour Party rending its garments in public, it may seem perverse to focus on what a Foot Administration might do if it takes office after the next election.

But as the Ministry of Defence continues to explain in considerable detail to the Commons Select Committee on Defence the consequences of the Government's decision to build a third-generation nuclear deterrent around the Trident missile, it is intriguing to speculate on what Whitehall will do if, in the mid-1980s, it finds itself answering to the first British prime minister with a personal commitment to end the country's adherence to such weapons.

The ministry has a firm rule that no contingency planning will be undertaken on how to handle a disarmer in No 10, but if the order came to cancel Trident and bring the Polaris submarines back to Faslane for the last time, it would, of course, be obeyed.

Mr Michael Foot and his Cabinet committee on defence and overseas policy in, say, the autumn of 1983, would have three choices before them:

1: To carry on with Trident which, at that point, would be costing between £700m and £800m a year;

2: To cancel Trident but allow the Polaris submarine squadron to remain on patrol until the end of its operational life in the mid-1990s;

3: To cancel Trident, call home Polaris boats, strip them of their missiles and convert them to hunter-killer submarines.

Should a Foot Cabinet opt for the second or third courses, its ministers would have a fight on their hands, for all the certainty that they would have their way in the end. For in the defence community there is a devotion to the idea of a British deterrent that goes deeper than mere reason would allow.

It peeps through the lines in the dry language of White Papers and statements to Parliament and surfaces in private conversations. For example, when asked how the Ministry of Defence would respond to a Secretary of State who arrived with the intention of dismantling the deterrent, one experienced figure replied: "Every gun in the place would be turned on him".

After a visit a few years ago to the leaky hut on a Cotswold hillside above Bath where Britain's missile-carrying submarines are designed (the scientists move blueprints to the dry corners when it rains, or they did in 1977), I remarked to a veteran of the deterrent business how dedicated they seemed to their task. He replied: "Oh yes, they are so fanatical about it that, if all else failed, they would strap the Polaris missile tubes to the royal yacht as a way of keeping the thing going."

Deterrence theorists in the ministry, when asked why a British force is so vital, emphasize the need for a "second centre of decision making" in Nato to keep the Russians guessing about the consequences of moving an inch forward on the central front in Europe. Outside critics argue that it is a hang-over from imperial days, a consolation for the loss of world power.

Could it not be something simpler that lies behind the impulse to deterrence in the early 1980s? The five ministers who sat on Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Polaris replacement Cabinet committee, MISC 7, are of an age where "standing alone" in 1940 was a personal and formative experience.

Is not their devotion to the deterrent, and the feeling of those of a similar background in the defence community, an instinctive wish for insurance against a rerun o[f] Britain summer[?] "boffins" applyi[ng] breaking the Luf[twaffe] one can read " Aldermaston an[d] rions experts beneath the Chil[tern] brave young me[n] substitute youthf[ul] in submarines lu[rking] the North Atlant[ic] stands between a of allies and the the Channel port

Whitehall woul[d] to using th[e] sovereignty" arg[ument] it looked like los[ing] once and for al[l] upsetting the [U...] But it was unc[ertain] our allies in the behind the decisi[on] on Trident as su[ch] the imperative Attlee's Cabine[t] when it decided first British bom[b].

It explains, to[o] servative restora[tion] in, say, 1987-88 c[ould] crash programme the business" by life of Polaris to if it was still in missioning Britis[h] produce some ki[nd] air-launched mis[sile] the gap until a weapon could be

L

Chronology of the strike force

1945 Air Ministry commissions work on jet aircraft to carry "special bomb".

1947 Attlee Cabinet committee authorizes construction of British atomic bomb.

1952 Atom bomb tested successfully at Monte Bello.

1956 V-bomber force becomes capable of an atomic strike against the Soviet Union.

1957 Hydrogen bomb tested successfully at Bikini Atoll.

1962 Macmillan and Kennedy agree on a successor to the V force based on the United States Polaris missile.

1969 Polaris submarine squadron replaces V force as strategic nuclear deterrent.

1978 Callaghan ministerial group authorizes two Whitehall working parties to consider Polaris replacement.

1979 Thatcher Cabinet committee opts for Trident, and Carter Administration agrees to extend Polaris sales agreement to cover it.

1980 Government announces Trident to replace Polaris in early 1990s at cost of £4,500m to £5,000m.

1981 Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Defence reaffirm commitment to Trident.

Relatives' rights confirmed

By a Staff Reporter

A legal victory which confirms the rights of the relatives of mental patients to question treatment and detention in psychiatric hospitals was announced yesterday by MIND, the mental health charity.

The case was heard in chambers by Sheffield County Court and the details came to light only yesterday. It concerns the father of a patient who refused to give his consent to his son's being committed to hospital on an indefinite detention order.

Mr James Girling, aged 28, the son, was admitted to Whitely Wood Clinic, Sheffield, on a one-month order for observation. The doctors said he was unmanageable and gave him two doses of electro-convulsive therapy. He refused to have any more.

Because he was difficult and the medical staff wanted to transfer him, if necessary, to a special hospital such as Broadmoor, they applied for an order under Section 26 of the Mental Health Act. They also wanted to treat him, which required his consent.

He was diagnosed as schizophrenic by his doctor and that was confirmed by a Broadmoor psychiatrist, who was willing to arrange for his transfer to Broadmoor. However, his father, as the nearest relative, had to give his consent to the Section 26 order.

Mr Frank Girling refused. He was taken to court by the Sheffield social services department, which said that he had unreasonably refused to sign the order.

Mr Girling was found last week not to have acted unreasonably in refusing to sign his son's detention order. Two independent psychiatrists said the son was now being peaceful and cooperative and had agreed to stay in hospital.

Mr Larry Gostin, deputy director of MIND, said the decision was a great advance and showed that the "nearest relative" safeguard in the Mental Health Act was not a paper tiger.

Time limit for awaiting trial 'often broken'

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The eight-week limit during which Parliament has said people should be brought to trial is being broken repeatedly, the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders said yesterday. It was giving evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs.

In 1979 only 54 per cent of people awaiting trial in custody were dealt with within eight weeks of commital. That was the limit set by the Courts Act, 1971, which directed that the trial should be held by then unless the Crown Court ordered differently. But there were no sanctions if the limit was exceeded.

A sample taken last year showed that 300 prisoners had been awaiting trial for more than six months and 700 for more than three months and up to six months.

"Particular hardship is caused to defendants who are remanded in custody in overcrowded conditions while awaiting trial, over 40 per cent of whom are later acquitted or given a non-custodial sentence."

To help to reduce waiting times, 50 judges from outside the South-east had agreed to sit in London for a time. More than 160 courts were being built.

The association said that in Scotland a person's trial had to be finished within 110 days of the committal, unless release from custody was granted.

One way to reduce the prison population would be to have a waiting list. Under such a scheme offenders likely to be dangerous to the public would be taken in immediately. But people such as fine defaulters or maintenance defaulters would wait their turn. That sort of system was operating in Holland.

Jobless benefit at lowest value for nine years

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Sickness and unemployment benefits reached their lowest value in real terms since September, 1971, when they were increased last November. That is shown in the 1980 edition of *Social Security Statistics*, published by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The fall in constant price terms was slightly less than the Government intended when short-term benefits were increased last November by 5 per cent less than the expected inflation rate. Figures in the new volume assume an inflation rate of 16½ per cent between the November, 1979, and November, 1980, increases, 1 per cent more than the actual rate.

The corrected figures, to be given in a future issue, show that sickness and unemployment benefits for a single person were worth £19.65 a week at April, 1980, prices, compared with more than £20 for most of the previous 10 years. In September, 1971, the benefits were worth £19.30 for a single person.

The value of the benefits for a man claiming for himself and a dependent wife fell to £31.78 a week at constant prices, compared with £32 to £33 for the previous decade. In September, 1971, the constant price value was £31.20.

The volume also shows that the value of the benefits has fallen in relation both to average earnings and to male manual workers' earnings. But the change relative to earnings does not extend as far back as that in real terms, and the tables do not give the November, 1980, figure.

At the November, 1979, increase, the benefits fell back to the level in 1975 compared with earnings.

Social Security Statistics 1980 (Stationery Office, £13).

Photograph by Bill Warhurst

Samantha Brown, aged five, of South Glamorgan, with her winning design for the Christmas second class stamp in the "Blue Peter" television contest.

State a[...] system [...] medica[l] errors [...]

By Nicholas Tim[...]

Support for system of comp[...] anced by the sta[...] tims of medical come from Lord *of the 10 Law L[...]*

The sensationa[l] the level of dam[ages] the substantial ri[se in num]ber of claims, a[nd the] danger that the to defensive med[icine] *that a radical re[form of the]* law is needed, said in a lectur[e] the journal of th[e] of Medicine.

Medical negl[igence] have increased t[...] cade. "Awards ing heights whi[ch] serious threat t[o] of health author[ities]

Citing the re[...] almost £250,000 he says: "neith[er] private funds c[an] support the bu[rden of] awards".

The "huge" sum at partly becaus[e] form (Personal provided that th[e] health service to be excluded.

That section pealed, Lord Sca[rman] an alternative s[...] to lump sum awa[rds] to assume norm[...] ancy; and consi[...] be given to a [...] underwritten by

Such a schem[e] lieve those wh[o] accidents, and th[e] fession, of the co[...] ing and almost [...] ful process of lit[igation] tor's alleged would put upon taxpayers, the for supporting [...] conceive it to and social duty

MPs defend disciplined scientist

By Frances Gibb

More than fifty MPs from all parties yesterday backed a call to the Prime Minister to intervene in the case of Mr Trevor Brown, a civil servant, who has been severely reprimanded by the Ministry of Defence for *speaking on* a television programme without permission.

Mr Brown, a senior scientist at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston, was disciplined last November for criticizing safety standards at the establishment on a *Newsnight* programme last March called "Is Aldermaston Safe?"

In a letter yesterday to the Prime Minister, Mr David Alton, Liberal MP for Liverpool, Edge Hill, one of 51 MPs who have signed an early day motion calling for the reprimand to be withdrawn, says an independent inquiry should be set up into the case.

"I thought that the Conservative Party and your Government stood for a more effective Civil Service", Mr Alton writes. "Yet you are letting a man be penalized for trying to protect the public interest

The letter points out that as Mr Brown was speaking as a local county councillor representing his constituents' interests, the case calls for clarification of the role of civil servants involved in local politics, as urged by the Armitage committee.

Mr Alton's letter is his second to Mrs Margaret Thatcher. In her reply of November 17 to his first letter she said that where there is a conflict between a civil servant's duties and his political life she was "in no doubt that a civil servant's first duty is to the state as his employer".

Mr Brown has the right of appeal to the Ministry of Defence but the MPs regard this as unsatisfactory and call in their motion for an independent adjudication procedure.

Man held boy down in pool, jury told

A man who forced his stepson, aged two and a half, to stay in a swimming pool for 90 minutes had ill-treated the child, a jury was told at Leeds Crown Court yesterday.

The child died later the same day, but Mr Gavin Barr-Young, for the prosecution, said: "There is no suggestion by the prosecution that this man had done anything approaching killing the child or anything like that. What the prosecution say is that he ill-treated this child.

Steven James Greenwood, aged 28, of Town Street, Stanningley, Leeds, pleaded not guilty to wilfully ill-treating or exposing his stepson Terence in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury.

Counsel said: "Some pool attendants became concerned at Greenwood's conduct. The child appeared to be distressed and was crying, and Greenwood was repeatedly submerging the child, holding the child's head under water"

At the end of the 90 minutes the child was completely exhausted, he added. He was taken to the grandmother's home, where he became unconscious. The boy died later that day.

The trial continues today.

Missing [...] boat was [...] up in No[rway]

From a Staff Re[porter]
Edinburgh

The 13ft rowin[g boat of] Mr Kenneth Ker[r] petty officer, se[t out across] the Atlantic last washed ashore an island ne[ar] Norway.

The boat, the [...] was empty and clues to show [...] to Mr Kerr, age[d] making his sec[ond attempt to] cross the Atlant[ic] seen on August merchant ship [...] of Ireland.

The empty [...] seen on Januar[y] miles off the Da[...] Royal Navy sai[d] would ask that officially pronou[nced]

MP demands inquiry into school beatings allegation

By Michael Horsnell

Teachers at a secondary school in Liverpool are administering 1,800 beatings a year to pupils, according to the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment (Stopp).

Mr Andrew Bennett, Labour MP for Stockport, North, has called for a government inquiry into the punishment record at Litherland High School, Sefton.

Mr Bennett, who has tabled questions to Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said: "It seems that if the information supplied to Stopp is correct it is an appalling situation which must be looked into."

Details of corporal punishments at the school were photocopied by Mr Alan Corkish, aged 36, an English teacher, who informed the headmaster of what he had done.

Mr Corkish, who still teaches at the school, has been told by Mr Keith Robinson, chief education officer of Sefton, to attend a governors' meeting next month. His conduct could lead to disciplinary action, Mr Robinson said.

The report said that the school recorded more beatings than any other whose statistics have been published.

In two weeks last year, Stopp says, there were 89 instances of corporal punishment among 400 boys aged between 12 and 15. The punishment, administered by a slipper, were for offences which included internal truancy and bullying and vandalism, but most were for minor misdemeanors.

Both Mr Eric Colley, the headmaster, and the local education authority refused to comment yesterday.

Mr Corkish said: "When I realized that the corporal punishment record of the school was three times as bad as the national average, I thought it was time I should do something about it. I could not get any meaningful discussion going between the staff, headmaster and governors, despite several tries. Then I contacted Stopp and found how bad the figures were compared with other schools."

Battlefields to be restored in £2m trust appeal

From Our Correspondent
Glasgow

The National Trust for Scotland launched a golden jubilee appeal for £2m yesterday for the continuance and expansion of its work to preserve Scotland's heritage.

Lord Bute, the chairman of the trust, said in Glasgow that £500,000 had been given, promised or lent on favourable terms.

It is understood that part of the income will be used to help to restore two Scottish battlegrounds, Bannockburn, where Robert the Bruce is honoured for his victory to secure Scottish independence in 1314, and Culloden, where the battle to decide the fate of the House of Stuart was fought in 1746.

The Clydesdale Bank, which is said to be keenly interested in the Bannockburn project, has promised "a very considerable sum" towards the development and the Scottish Tourist Board is believed to be considering committing more than £100,000.

Help the families of young offenders, society urges

The Church of England Children's Society yesterday urged the Government to eradicate the weakness in methods of dealing with juvenile delinquency by paying more attention to offenders' families.

Of the 1980 White Paper, *Young Offenders*, the society says that the weakness of the proposals for orders for removal from home for youngsters lies in their neglect of the family, whose circumstances often lead to delinquency.

Children's difficulties cannot be considered in isolation, Mr Donald Bowie, the society's director, says. "Is it surprising that recidivism is so high when children are placed in borstals, and then returned to exactly the environment in which the original offences were committed?"

The society says: "Help and guidance and support for families is vital in reducing delinquency." It welcomes the Government's intention of making custodial sentences of a fixed length for young people and its desire not to put young offenders in adult jails.

But it deplores the power given to the Home Secretary to reclassify a young offender to adult status, so that the offender can go to an adult prison if there is a lack of suitable accommodation.

"Such powers make" a mockery of the distinction between training, treatment and rehabilitation on the one hand, and retributive punishment meted out to adults on the other", the society says.

The society criticizes the White Paper's failure to indicate whether money will be provided to fund the changes

It welcomes the Government's intention to introduce measures to restore the confidence of courts in supervision orders, one alternative to custodial treatment.

Custody, says the society, isolates the young offender from his family, whereas the society believes in working together with the offender and the family.

Public inquiry urged on Ulster murders

From Craig Seton
Belfast

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who was snubbed at the funeral on Sunday of Sir Norman Stronge and his son, the IRA victims, yesterday came under more pressure from Unionists over border security.

Mr William Bleakes, secretary of the Official Unionists' District Councillors Association, called for a public inquiry into the murder last Wednesday of Sir Norman and his son, Mr James Stronge, at Tynan Abbey, co Armagh, close to the border with the republic. He said: "We expect the Government to protect the citizens of this province".

Last night an Official Unionist councillor was trying to put a motion before Larne council urging that it should boycott official visits to its district by Mr Atkins.

Death threat: The Official Unionist candidate in a Belfast city council by-election tomorrow has withdrawn from the contest after receiving a live bullet and a death threat letter at his home.

Mr David Smylie, aged 57, a shipyard worker, found the bullet and letter warning him to "pull out" in an envelope pushed through his letterbox. He said he would get out of politics altogether

Firemen injured: Two firemen were slightly injured near Belfast city centre yesterday after three armed men had planted bombs in a wholesale store.

After the building had been evacuated the first bomb exploded. Firemen were caught by the second blast. An army bomb disposal team defused the third device.

Redundant clothing w[orkers] go back as a coopera[tive]

By David Nicholson-Lord

Twenty-five workers at an East Anglian clothing factory were back at their machines yesterday, three days after losing their jobs and collecting redundancy payments of up to £1,000 each.

The 25, who were among 70 workers made redundant last Friday at the Maxwell Kiddie Clothes factory, at Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, have formed a cooperative of "outdoor workers" on contract to manufacturers.

Thanks to their former employer, they have secured their first order as well as the use of the company's premises and machinery, on loan to them at a peppercorn rent until the lease expires at the end of March.

As pop music from a radio blared out over the clatter of sewing machines, Mr John White, one of the group's leaders, said: "It was either this or going on the dole. It was a case of getting off our backsides and doing something about it."

Mr White, who formerly earned about £1[...] cutter, added: taking any wa[ges for the] work we are doi[ng, we are] going to put it a[...] hope that we business from [...] in the next few

He is secretar[y of the] committee set u[p when the com]pany announced that it was trans[ferring produc]tion to three ot[her ...]

They approach[ed ...] Maxwell, manag[ing director of] the company, wh[o ...] on finances and with an order dren's jackets,

Provisionally Fashions, the gr[oup is in] negotiations for planning to form pany.

Mr White [...] orders were diff[icult to get at] this time of yea[r but] the atmosphere He added: "Ob[viously it will] be hard for us [...] if we can manag[e ...] nine months we [...] a chance of succ[ess]

Scots Act aims to stop weapon-carrying

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

No acceptable behaviour would be restricted by the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act, which comes into force on February 1, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Advocate, said at a press conference in Edinburgh yesterday. The Act gives greater powers to the police to search suspects and to control alcohol at sporting events.

It was hoped that the Act would provide a better and more secure society for everyone, Lord Mackay said. The new power for the police to search for offensive weapons was aimed at breaking the weapon-carrying habit among some young people.

Provisional figures showed that 32 of 80 victims of homicide in 1979 were killed by sharp instruments.

Lord Mackay said: "We hope that the judicious exercise of this new power by the police will help to stamp out the weapon-carrying habit and forestall the most serious consequences of some of these acts." The control of alcohol at football matches and other sporting events would reduce the amount of rowdy and disorderly behaviour and he said, "We hope it will make Saturday afternoons more enjoyable for everyone involved".

He dismissed fears that the police would store information on people suspected of an offence and subsequently released; he felt that would be done only in the case of convicted criminals.

Mackerel plea by fishermen

Cornish fishermen's leaders yesterday criticized a Whitehall decision to allow fishing for immature mackerel to continue. They say that stocks are being overfished and want the season to finish early this year.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries said yesterday: "The South-west mackerel fishery is not being closed in the immediate future because our latest scientific evidence shows that this is not necessary".

There are 65 trawlers from Scotland and the North-east fishing in the South-west and taking their catches to Russian and Eastern block factory ships moored off Falmouth.

Mrs Daphne Lawry, secretary of the Cornish Fish Producers Organization, said yesterday: "The minister has made the awkward decision because the Government wants a large mackerel catch to back British claims for a reasonable national quota from the EEC".

HOME NEWS

European commission rejects Liberal view of British poll system

By Lucy Hodges

The case brought by the Liberal Party alleging that the British electoral system contravenes the European Convention on Human Rights has been rejected, it was disclosed yesterday.

The European Commission of Human Rights decided at its last session that the case should be declared "inadmissible", that is, that there was no prima facie case. It has not yet given its reasons but it is well known that the commission did not view the case with favour.

The Liberals were arguing that the first-past-the-post system for British elections causes discrimination against a political minority. The commission is believed to have viewed that as a highly political case of the kind which should be decided by the country itself and not by an outside body.

None of the cases that have gone to the commission to date on the question of voting rights has yet been declared admissable, the first hurdle in the commission's lengthy procedure.

At its last session the commission decided to pursue a complaint brought by Mr Denis Lemon, the editor of *Gay News*, who is claiming that his conviction for blasphemous libel in 1979 contravened the European convention. It has asked the United Kingdom Government for its views on whether it should hear the case.

It also decided to pursue seven complaints brought by women who are prevented by the new immigration rules from bringing their husbands or fiancées into Britain to live with them.

The commission decided not to refer two cases to the European Court of Human Rights. Those cases concern deportation proceedings for immigrants, involving detention (the Caprino case) and the question whether prisoners serving a life sentence can marry.

In the case of Franco Caprino, an Italian immigrant who was arrested, imprisoned and told he would be deported because *his presence was not* considered conducive to the public good, it is understood that the commission has found no violation of the convention. The deportation order was rescinded by the Home Secretary of the time.

Don would welcome an inquiry on leak charge

By John Witherow

A Cambridge don branded as a "traditionalist" in a dispute within the English faculty said yesterday that he would welcome a university investigation into allegations that he and others had leaked accounts of confidential meetings.

Dr John Harvey, of Emmanuel College, was responding to reports that his opponents within the faculty, at present divided by its most bitter dispute for 50 years, intended to ask for an investigation by the university's ancient court, the Septem Viri.

Consisting of seven distinguished dons, the Septem Viri can investigate allegations that members have broken accepted confidentiality about faculty board meetings and if necessary can take disciplinary action.

The dispute centres on the refusal of the faculty's appointments committee to give a permanent position to Dr Colin MacCabe, an assistant lecturer in the department for five years, after he had twice been recommended

Supporters of Dr MacCabe see the refusal to promote him as a move by the more traditional dons to prevent the spread of an approach to English literature known as structuralism.

Dr Harvey has denied those allegations and claimed that the feeling among the dons was that Dr MacCabe was denied a permanent post because of his teaching abilities.

Dr Stephen Heath, a supporter of Dr MacCabe, who has called for a debate on the faculty in the Senate, yesterday denied a newspaper report that he had instructed a lawyer to prepare a libel action against Dr Harvey.

Housing body decision day

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The future of the Family Housing Association, whose affairs have been in effect frozen by the Government because of a £900,000 deficit, is expected to be decided today.

The supervision panel and board of the Housing Corporation discussed the association's affairs yesterday amid fears that recommendations from a special manager appointed by the corporation would be ignored.

The Association's difficulties arise from a moratorium imposed on its building programme by the Department of the Environment and the corporation in 1978, which remained in force for nine months.

Last September a new grant of £350,000 was agreed to prevent the association from going into liquidation, and Mr Ian Watts was appointed by the corporation as special manager to investigate its affairs.

Mr Watts is believed to have recommended that the Association should be allowed to retain *a smaller housing development* programme, producing about 90 units a year.

In brief

Blue asbestos fine on council

Buckinghamshire County Council was fined £800 yesterday at High Wycombe Magistrate's Court for failing to take precautions in handling blue asbestos, which is liable to cause cancer. The asbestos had been used to insulate pipework in the kiln boiler room at Buckinghamshire College of Further Education, High Wycombe, it was stated.

Mr Raymond Johnson-Smith, a technician, had worked on the pipes without protective equipment to prevent inhalation, the prosecution said. The county council admitted a breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Court reduces sentence

Graham George Sheehan, who was given a two-year jail sentence a year ago for his alleged part in a raid on the country home of Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, was cleared of burglary by *the Court of* Appeal yesterday.

Mr Sheehan, a labourer, of Chinnor Road, Thame, Oxfordshire, had a conviction of handling and a 21-month jail sentence substituted by Lord Justice Shaw, sitting with Mr Justice Bristow and Mr Justice Hodgson.

Noose girl dies

Claire Taylor, aged four, of Scawthorpe, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, who was found dangling unconscious in a ribbon "noose" after she slipped from a chair while making a garden swing, died in hospital yesterday.

£100,000 raid

Four masked and armed raiders escaped with more than £100,000 after threatening security guards outside a Co-operative store in Slade Green, Kent, yesterday.

Postmen for trial

Two postmen and four postal workers at Marylebone, accused of conspiring to steal mail, were sent from Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court yesterday on bail for trial at Knightsbridge Crown Court. They are further charged with stealing a postal packet.

Royal nursery pupil

Peter Phillips, aged three, Princess Anne's son, yesterday joined 24 village children for his first full week at nursery school at Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, near the royal estate at Gatcombe Park.

Footballer fined

Frank Worthington, aged 32, the Birmingham City footballer, was fined £75 by magistrates at Cannock, Staffordshire, yesterday, for speeding.

Radio job for Mrs Foot

Miss Jill Craigie, wife of Mr Michael Foot, the Opposition Leader, is to become a political commentator with Capital Radio in London.

Food chemical hazard unresolved

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

Government scientists did not know if a chemical flavouring found to cause illness in rats was still being used in food processing, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said yesterday.

The substance is versalide, which was stated by the ministry last year to have been associated with nervous disorders in rats which lead to weakness and lack of coordination in the limbs.

The ministry was then supplying information for an inquiry about flavourings by a select committee of the Lords. It had asked for information after hearing from Dr C. E. Fisher, a principal scientific officer on the food standards committee of the ministry, that versalide was a chemical about which "there have been toxicological doubts expressed".

The ministry said that government scientists had been told in 1976 that versalide was used in some processed desserts, sugar confectionery and baked goods. The substance was examined then by the toxicity subcommittee of the Government's committee on medical aspects of chemicals in food.

The *subcommittee* said that further research was necessary. The ministry reported that "papers have recently appeared in the scientific press showing that versalide has neurotoxic properties in experimental animals". Nervous disorders had been found in "rats repeatedly exposed to the compound".

The ministry said yesterday that no special investigation was planned for versalide. It would be included in a series of safety tests by government scientists on all artificial food flavourings, which would be completed in two years.

Other home news page 8

Daunting challenge faces new Merseyside organization

Bringing dead dockland to life

Regional report
John Chartres
Liverpool

Mr Basil Bean, chief executive of the embryo Merseyside Development Corporation, looked out of his office window on to a stretch of disused dock buildings and an even larger stretch of mud and asked: "What do you suggest we can do to bring life back to the river?"

Mr Bean, aged 48, lately general manager of the Northampton Development Corporation *and with a long* background of local government administration, obviously has *his own ideas*.

His organization, due to become "legal" in March, has the daunting challenge of restoring prosperity (regenerating is the official word) to the almost moribund dockland areas between the Dingle and Bootle on the east side of the river and around Wallasey and Birkenhead on the west bank.

The west bank used to be called the Cheshire or the Wirral side, before some people occasionally referred to as bureaucrats altered the labels in those parts.

The Merseyside Development Corporation (there is only one other of its kind, dealing with an area known vaguely to northerners as London Dockland) should have been legalized by now, but a hybrid Bill still has to go through various parliamentary stages.

Mr Bean must carry on in his temporary offices with a small staff until the Bill is passed, when he will be allowed to recruit between 50 to 60 people, including experts in their fields, with the usual secretarial and administrative support.

The creation of the development corporation caused a little *sucking of teeth and clicking of* tongues among the established local authorities on Merseyside which saw it as being superimposed on their existing powers.

Mr Bean believes much of that resentment has melted, particularly since Sir Kenneth Thompson, chairman of Merseyside County Council, accepted the shadow post of vice-chairman of the corporation, with Mr Leslie Young, chairman of J. Bibby and Sons, taking on the chairmanship.

The tasks facing the corporation are formidable. The South Dock area on the Liverpool side of the river has become more derelict and depressing since the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company stopped commercial operations 15 years ago.

The complex of docks, shipyards, warehouses, tidal and non-tidal inlets on the Wirral side between Birkenhead and Wallasey poses big difficulties in terms of roadworks, bridges and access since there always seems to be a bit of the River Mersey in the way of every lorry or car driver wanting to move around there and do business.

The stretch of dockland on the east side, from Liverpool Pierhead down *river* to Bootle seems to offer the best opportunities for an early start, according to Mr Bean.

There are many ideas for regenerating the south docks area, including one, put forward by a firm of commercial developers, for the conversion of the Albert Dock into a trading, export and exhibition complex. That has been the subject of a public inquiry, just completed.

The crucial issue for Mr Bean and his colleagues, however, may still be how to bring back life to the River Mersey which some of us remember as bustling with inward and outward bound transatlantic liners, tugs and ferries plying hither and thither, and always a fine scene to watch either over a railing on the pierhead or, better still, from the deck of a ferry boat while sneaking in a lunchtime break.

This correspondent, to whom Mr Bean's first question was addressed, could only suggest that maritime life may return to the upper reaches of the Mersey only if the maritime museum project, already launched in a small way, is encouraged, some large historic ships drawn into it, and the growing worldwide population of marine archaeology enthusiasts drawn in too.

Too many of them nowadays seem to be attracted to St Katharine's Dock in a place called London, England.

WEST EUROPE

Revolt on defence strains Bonn coalition

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Jan 26

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, is facing fresh trouble hard on the heels of last week's political crisis in West Berlin with a rebellion by 24 deputies in his Social Democrat Party in Bonn over defence.

The new difficulties come on top of strains and rifts which have been increasing in the SPD-Free Democrat coalition since its election victory on October 5.

The 24 deputies have caused embarrassment to the Government by presenting a resolution to the SPD parliamentary party demanding that defence spending be cut by 1,000m marks (£210m) and that the money be used for development aid.

According to Herr Herbert Wehner, the SPD floor leader, the move is linked with efforts to obtain a withdrawal of Bonn's approval of the dual Nato resolution to station new medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe and to negotiate with the Soviet Union on reducing the number of such weapons.

Some SPD members maintain that the party's consent was given on the understanding that the United States would approve the Salt 2 treaty, which it has not.

The resolution strikes at the Government's whole defence policy and, since conservative American circles are highly sensitive to suggestions of faintheartedness in Bonn, would hardly improve the Government's image with the Reagan Administration.

The resolution also conflicts with the position of the FDP whose leader, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, has warned that such a move would be "extremely dangerous" for West Germany.

The resolution, being discussed today, looks unlikely to *be carried but the trouble will* almost certainly live on. It has shown that the number of SPD deputies prepared to oppose Herr Schmidt on defence has doubled since the elections.

Although his majority is also larger, if the 24 stuck to their guns on such an issue in the Bundestag the Government would not win without help from the Opposition.

Meanwhile, the Social Democrats were preparing to fight hard to retain power in West Berlin in the fresh elections which were called after last week's crisis.

The importance of West Berlin to West German politics has been underlined by the fact that the Chancellor is supporting his most valued minister and *most likely successor*, Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, in his attempt to become Chief Burgomaster and save the situation.

If the Social Democrats should lose power which they have held in the city, with one brief interruption, since 1947 it would inevitably be seen as the beginning of the end of their rule in Bonn.

Herr Schmidt ponders over the latest crisis to affect his troubled coalition.

Herr Vogel, who was Justice Minister, has the unenviable task of cleaning up a party discredited by scandals, and winning the elections against competition from an eminent and highly-respected liberal Christian Democrat, Herr Richard von Wieszäcker.

But he has little time to show results before the elections, which appear likely to be held in the early summer, and further evidence of SPD maladministration may well appear by then.

The acceptance of Herr Vogel by Berlin's House of Representatives on Friday has given Herr Schmidt a breathing space until the city's elections. But the malaise in the coalition, which came to the surface again in Berlin, continues.

Things have not gone well since the Free Democrats increased their share of the vote in the October elections and insisted on correspondingly greater influence in the coalition, while the Social Democrats resented giving way. Differences have arisen on a number of issues and in Berlin some Free Democrats were not averse to switching over to join the Christian Democrats.

But although they have the power to bring about a change of government and may secretly be tempted to do so, the Free Democrat leaders are not prepared to move.

They point out that their votes at the election came largely from people who wanted them to continue in the coalition as a moderating influence. They have committed *themselves and will not pull* out unless the SPD made government impossible and the public clearly demanded a change.

Such a crisis is not inconceivable. The rebellion over defence is a sign that some SPD members, at least, are not prepared to go along with compromises they feel they cannot support.

232 arrest warrants for Mafia nets 123

From John Earle
Rome, Jan 26

In a nationwide operation 123 alleged members of 19 Mafia gangs operating along the west coast of Calabria were arrested at dawn today. They were accused of conspiracy, extortion and undertaking protection rackets in southern Italy, which is second only to Sicily as a home of the Mafia or the *Ndrangheta* as it is called in the Calabrian dialect.

Carabinieri carried out the arrests in towns as far north as Turin and San Remo. Altogether 232 arrest warrants were issued, but some of those involved are already in prison on other charges, while the rest are being sought.

*Among those held is Signo*rina Concetta Rottura, a companion of Signor Michelangelo Franconieri, the alleged head of a gang who has been wanted for 25 years but never found.

Specific charges against the purported members of two other gangs include the murder of the local Communist Party secretary at Rosarno near the new industrial area of Gioia Tauro, and a series of kidnappings in Rome, Milan and Genoa.

The authorities evidently hope to break the back of the Mafia in the province of Reggio Calabria, but previous experience from large-scale crackdowns in the south of Italy suggests that the effect is likely to be temporary.

Rhine pollution discussed by ministers

The Hague, Jan 26.—Ministers from five countries met in Holland today to discuss pollution of the Rhine by French potash mines.

The one-day conference in The Hague suburb of Wassenaar was devoted to problems caused by the discharge of salt wastes by state-owned mines in Alsace, Dutch officials said.

The French government has withdrawn from Parliament a Bill ratifying a 1976 treaty under which the five states through which the river flows agreed to a stage-by-stage reduction in the amount of salt and other substances dumped in the 1,300km-long river. It said the legislation would not obtain a parliamentary majority.

The ministers were expected to ask an international commission to explore several possible methods of disposing of the potash waste, conference sources said. The Netherlands, France, West Germany, Switzerland and Luxembourg were represented.

Among the methods discussed were: injecting the waste underground; shipping it by barge to the North Sea for dumping; setting up a salt factory in Alsace, and depositing the waste in disused parts of the mines.

Dutch market gardeners have brought a court case against the French mines, contending that 20m kilograms (44m lb) of waste salt a day are pumped into the Rhine from Alsace.

In December, 1979 the Dutch Government, annoyed at France's non-ratification of the 1976 treaty, took the unprecedented step of temporarily recalling its Ambassador from Paris in protest.—Reuter.

French Communists switch tactics to fight election on two fronts

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 26

Since the breakdown of the left alliance three years ago, the Communist Party's enemy number one had been M François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, and his party—all that changed last week.

The Communist objective had been to stop the Socialists winning at the polls—at whatever costs, even if that meant keeping President Giscard d'Estaing and the "reactionary policy of big capital" in power.

M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, could have aptly been described as the President's most valuable ally in the coming presidential contest—this despite M Marchais's claim—when he put himself forward as his party's candidate for the Elysée that he represented the only genuinely "anti-Giscard" candidate in the lists.

M Marchais had solemly proclaimed that while other candidates for the presidency were indulging in an undignified campaign of personalities and scandals, including the Bokassa diamonds and the suicide of M Robert Boulin, the former Labour Minister, he would insist, as he said last October, on a "real debate about issues in a dignified atmosphere".

However, last week the Communist leader switched tactics and began gunning for the President with a personal virulence which hitherto had been the hallmark of M Mitterand's sharp ironical cut and thrust manner.

M Marchais had once affected to scorn such tactics as unworthy of his party and himself. Then he deemed it unnecesary to resort to "personal attacks as a weapon of political combat".

Now the President seems to have taken over from M Mitterrand as the French Communist Party's pet hate. This impression is strengthened by the fact that on the very same day when he lashed out at M Giscard d'Estaing, M Marchais—at a meeting in Rennes—declared: "Is my enemy the Socialist Party? No, absolutely not. My enemy is the policy of unemployment, of austerity for the workers, of restrictions of freedoms."

"Enough of this President without scruple who does not even shrink from the benefits for a family, all of whose members have built their careers and their fortunes on the frontiers of politics and finance, in that world of money where no title of nobility ever confers nobility of heart or mind", he said.

Why this sudden change of tactics? The explanation that it was triggered off by the recent decision of the Conseil d'Etat against the door-to-door canvassing of support for the party in some Communist municipalities in Paris was not quite satisfying.

The reason lies deeper. The strategy of the French Communist Party in the past couple of years has never been simple. To gun for the Socialists while pretending to demolish the right has taken some doing.

There have been signs that it has not been overly successful. As one commentator aptly put it, people find it hard to understand how M Mitterrand, who is in opposition, can be more to blame than President Giscard d'Estaing for all the alleged woes

The series of by-elections last autumn, showed that the Communist leadership's anti-socialist line was on the whole not appreciated and not obeyed; and opinion polls have confirmed the analysis.

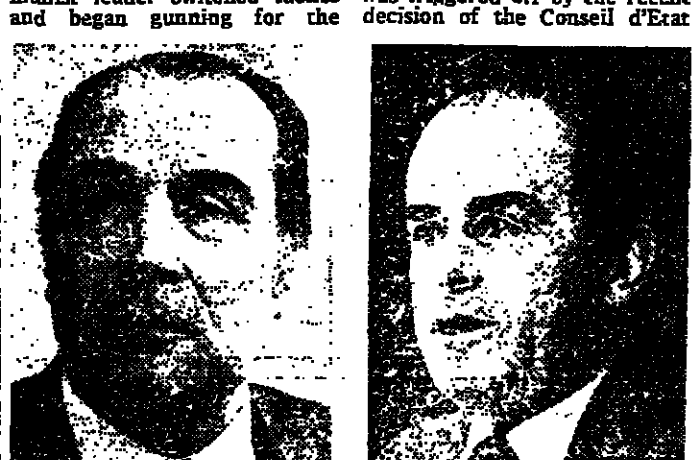
M Marchais therefore decided to adjust his tactics.

But this does not mean that M Marchais is any keener to see M Mitterrand installed in the Elysee Palace in place of President Giscard d'Estaing.

The Communist Party, under his inspiration, wants to be both in the van of the battle against the one, while effectively blocking the ambitions of the other. Its aim is to ensure that the Communists emerge in the long run as the strongest party of the left, which it is not at present.

The party does not want to be the fifth wheel of a Socialist Government, which would incur the inevitable odium of having *promised the moon and proving* unable to deliver it.

In the meantime, M Marchais wages war on two fronts. He responds to the grass roots sentiment in his own party by indulging in personal attacks against the president, but at the same time, he effectively frightens away Gaullist and middle of the road voters whom M Mitterrand needs if he is to have any chance of winning by resurrecting the threat that if the left should triumph, his party will demand its share of the spoils and is ready to shoulder responsibility in a Socialist Government.



Elysée rivals: M Mitterrand (left), the Socialist leader, and the unpredictable M Marchais, the Communist leader.

Malta signs refuelling deal with the Russians

From Our Correspondent
Valletta, Jan 26

It is not without irony that Malta has signed an agreement allowing the Soviet Union to make use of the vast underground oil storage complex built here by Nato in the 1950s and handed back to Malta by Britain when the Anglo-Maltese military connexion came to an end in 1979.

Mr Wistin Abela, the Maltese Development Minister, and Mr Tomofei Guzkenko, the Soviet Minister for Merchant Marine, today signed an agreement providing refuelling facilities for Russian ships.

There have been temporary arrangements, but the Maltese Government wanted to negotiate a longer term arrangement.

The Has Saptain storage complex has capacity for 50,000 tonnes of diesel oil, 90,000 tonnes of fuel oil, and 40,000 tonnes of jet oil. In 1980 2,118 ships called at Malta, of which 108 were Russian.

The agreement with the Soviet Union concerns half of the total storage space available, while the other half will be used by an Italian company in keeping with an arrangement reached when Italy signed a neutrality agreement with Malta last year.

Guards escape

Munich, Jan 26.—Two East German border guards fled to West Germany by climbing a steel security fence on an unmined stretch of the border, West German border police said.

Nazi reminder

Dachau, Jan 26.—The number of visitors to the former Dachau concentration camp exceeded a record 800,00 according to Frau Distel, custodian of what is now a memorial to Nazi victims.

Community assures Spain that entry date stands

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 26

Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, today assured Señor Eduardo Punset Casals, the Spanish minister in charge of relations with the EEC, that the Community was still aiming at January 1, 1984, as the date for Spain's entry.

Mr Gaston Thorn recently ruffled feathers in Madrir by stating that the timing of Spanish entry would depend on how quickly the EEC completed the internal financial reforms on which it is to embark later this year.

It is not clear what Mr Thorn's pledge is worth since the pace of entry negotiations with both Spain and its neighbour Portugal will be determined essentially by EEC member states, among whom France is adamantly opposed to Spanish entry before completion of the internal reforms.

Mr Thorn also told Señor Punset that the EEC would try to clear the easier negotiating obstacles out of the way by the end of the summer, leaving the most difficult issues, such as agriculture, fisheries, removal of industrial tariffs and fiscal questions to be tackled later.

In a separate meeting with Vicomte Etienne Davignon, the EEC Commissioner in charge of industry, Señor Punset offered to reduce Spain's steel exports to the Community by 15 per cent this year

A condition of this offer, however, was that the EEC should also reduce its steel exports to Spain. Spanish steel sales to the Community have been running well above the voluntary limits Madrid accepted earlier, but EEC exports to Spain have also risen eliminating Spain's traditional surplus in this trade.

Señor Punset is coming under increasing pressure from Spanish industrialists, who for many years have sheltered behind high tariffs, to secure protectionist safeguards against the impact of entry to the EEC's customs union.

Scientists working on spy satellites for UN

Paris, Jan 26.—A little-known group of space scientists have been working here for the past two years on France's proposal, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1978, to "police" the world with spy satellites monitoring troop movements and war preparations.

The basic idea is that, just as the United Nations has sent military contingents to such trouble spots as Katanga, Cyprus, Lebanon and Egypt, it should undertake similar missions with "spy satellites".

Both the United States and the Soviet Union have their own satellite surveillance system, photographing military and economic installations, but this information remains a secret in Washington and Moscow.

In May, 1978, France drew up a proposal under which there would be an international satellite control system operated by the United Nations. In December of that year the General Assembly adopted by 113 votes to nil, with 13 abstentions, a resolution urging that a group of government experts should study ways of creating such a system.

This group, presided over by a French military specialist, M Hubert Bortzmeyer, is due to deliver its final report next June. It will then be debated in the General Assembly

M Hubert Curien, head of the National Centre of Space Studies, explained today that the system would have to be introduced by phases over "suspect areas" of the world.

In the second phase, the newly formed international agency would have to request its own special satellite communication wavelengths and make all the necessary arrangements with fellow-users. Finally, the agency would have to launch its own "spy" satellites.

The minimum cost of making the United Nations system operational would be an estimated £312m to £416m, Agence France-Presse.

Driver's death by vandals stops Paris trains

From Ian Murray
Paris, Jan. 26

All trains serving the northern suburbs of Paris were stopped today by a strike called after a driver was killed on Saturday evening by a chunk of concrete deliberately thrown from a road bridge over the tracks near Aubervilliers.

The strike was a spontaneous act by railwaymen working on the network who have been increasingly alarmed in recent months by the growing incidence of vandalism against trains.

In one case a driver just had time to fling himself to the floor when he saw a piece of concrete dangling from a wire at the level of his cabin windscreen as the train emerged from a tunnel. The concrete smashed into the cab as the train was travelling at nearly 60 mph.

This weekend's more serious accident could have been caused in a similar way. The train, which links Paris with Charles de Gaulle airport, was travelling at nearly 80 mph when the concrete smashed the windscreen, causing the driver fatal injuries. The train itself slowed and stopped when the driver released his hold on the "dead man's handle".

In 1979 there were 741 acts of vandalism reported on French railways, and last year the number rose to more than a thousand, according to returns so far.

The attacks have included several by snipers, using rifles, as well as large numbers of stone-throwing incidents involving children.

Last May a group of four boys put several blocks of concrete on the tracks of France's experimental high speed train "to see what the effect would be" when it hit them at 100 mph. Fortunately, the concrete was simply ground to powder.

The Paris Metro service was slightly disrupted today by a strike called in protest at a new signalling system, which the unions claim has caused several accidents, including one last week which killed a young woman.

Searchers find five bodies from Greek ship

Bodoe, Norway, Jan 26.—Five bodies were recovered from empty dinghies and the sea today near where the 29,689-ton Greek cargo ship Deifovos sank yesterday.

Twenty-nine members of the crew were picked up by helicopters from lifeboats yesterday and, according to the rescue headquarters here, three crewmen are still missing. The search for other possible survivors continued near the island of Vega

OVERSEAS

Solidarity leader tries to avert clash over farmers' dispute

Warsaw, Jan 26.—Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, went to Rzeszow in south-eastern Poland today in an effort to avert a clash between the Government and about 300 workers and farmers who continued a sit-in for the twenty-fourth day.

Meanwhile, a student protest in Lodz, south-west of Warsaw, is spreading. Students at the local university started an occupation strike several days ago and an estimated 1,000 students of the medical faculty followed suit with a sit-in last Friday.

They were demanding from the Government such concessions as abolition of compulsory classes in Marxist philosophy and economics. They also wanted a ban on police intervention to restore order at the university.

A spokesman for the Gdansk headquarters of Solidarity who reported Mr Walesa's departure, announced that the union's national coordinating commission would, for the first time, hold part of its meeting this week in Rzeszow.

The Warsaw branch of Solidarity unveiled plans for a general strike throughout the region on February 3 as part of a nationwide campaign to force the authorities to honour promises made to strikers last summer.

Both the union and the Government say they are ready to hold far-reaching talks on the whole range of their disputes, but by early afternoon today neither party had reported any schedule for negotiations.

The Politburo of the Communist Party met Mr Stanislaw Kania, the party leader, today to review the general situation, a government spokesman said. "There is readiness for talks on the government side but no date has yet been fixed", the spokesman added.

The peasant farmers who have been staging the sit-in at Rzeszow are trying to force the authorities to legalize a Rural Solidarity union.

One big industrial plant in every region is being asked to call a two-hour warning strike on Wednesday in accordance with a decision by Solidarity's national consultative commission to make it a day of struggle for Rural Solidarity.

The Rzeszow farmers, who are spearheading the Rural Solidarity campaign, threatened that further strikes would follow if the authorities still refused to budge.

The Supreme Court earlier this month suspended indefinitely a ruling on the legality of the farmers' union. The authorities say they are adamantly opposed to such an organization.

Czechoslovakia's official press said today that Mr Walesa was "radicalized" by his recent trip to Rome, where he visited the Pope. *Rude Pravo*, the Communist Party daily, also renewed accusations that Solidarity was trying to disrupt Poland's economy and that the West was guilty of "gross interference" in the country.

In another barrage, Czechoslovakia's official news agency CTK said the Polish independent labour movement appeared to be seeking a "permanently tense situation".—Reuter and AP.

French help: The French trade union organization Force Ouvrière plans to send two lorry loads of supplies to Solidarity (Agence France-Presse writes from Paris).

The lorries, filled with paper, ink, stencils, printing materials and International Labour Organization documents translated into Polish, will get under way as soon as the union has been granted the necessary entry visas, and possibly as soon as tomorrow morning, M André Bergeron, the union's secretary general, said.

Nobel nomination: Señor Adolfo Péez Esquivel of Argentina, the 1980 Nobel peace prize laureate, today proposed Mr Lech Walesa for this year's prize describing him as "a symbol for liberation and a fighter for world peace." (Reuter writes from São Paulo).

He told a press conference he had already nominated Mr Walesa in a letter to the Nobel committee in Oslo.

Hostage deal defended by Iranian Speaker

From Tony Allaway
Tehran, Jan 26

An Iranian politician today confirmed reports of a split in the dominant Islamic Republican Party over the deal that freed the hostages.

Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, Speaker of the Parliament, was asked at his weekly press conference about a leading article in the party's newspaper *Islamic Republic*, which said that the biggest benefit of the crisis was the replacement of "liberals" by clergy in positions of power.

"Firstly, I should say that those who have written this . . . have themselves resigned after this development", he replied, without identifying them.

Mr Hassan Ayat, an extremist parliamentary deputy and a member of the IRP central council, was vehemently opposed to the settlement, but he did not appear to enjoy much support in the Parliament. The Speaker's statement indicated that the rift might go deeper into the wide coalition that makes up the IRP.

He devoted most of his press conference to defending the terms of the hostage agreement against a rising chorus of protests. So did Mr Muhammad Ali Rajai, the Prime Minister, in a special speech to Parliament this morning.

In the Speakers view, "the majority of people accept the deal . . . When we decided the hostages could no longer play a role in our policies, we brought an end to the issue."

Asked for Iran's reaction if the United States repudiated the agreement, the Speaker said: "I do not think the Americans are so stupid as to destroy their credibility in relation to their own undertakings.

"Of course, we would not stand idly by. We also have friends who will give us power, and we shall also work against American interests in other places."

Despite the benefits Iran saw in the hostage affair, it would not be repeated, he said.

In *Parliament* Mr Rajai strongly defended the Government against what he described as two lines of criticism—those unhappy with the final terms and those totally against the hostage-taking itself.

He told the first group: "No other Government could have taken more undertakings from the United States than we did." The second group, Mr Rajai said, were simply, counter-revolutionaries. "Those who say, in a word, that with the hostage-taking Iran became a hostage of the United States don't know the principles of revolution."

He acknowledged that only $2,880m (£1,200m) of Iranian assets had been transferred so far to Iran, but said Iran had used most of the rest to repay loans and interest.

"This was good for us because, firstly, Iran could rid itself of loans imposed by the former regime and, secondly, Iran would not be obliged to pay interest sometimes as high as 22.5 per cent", he said.

Severe problems: A dozen of the 52 freed hostages were suffering severe, mostly spychological, problems after their 444 days of captivity, President Reagan was told today (David Cross writes from Washington).

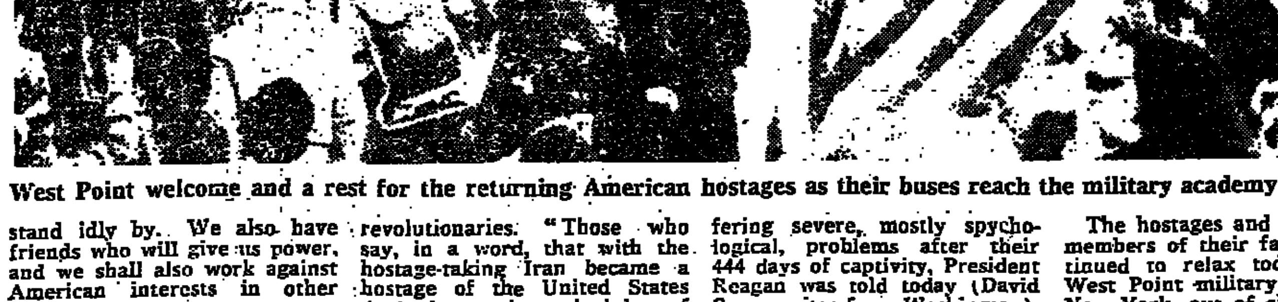
At a briefing by Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State Mr Reagan was also informed that most of the hostages wanted to get back to work as soon as possible. Re-integration in the work force was "extremely important to their mental health and their emotional well-being", Mr Haig said.

One of the "overwhelming concerns" of the hostages was what the future would hold for their careers, Mr Haig said.

The hostages and the closest members of their families continued to relax today at the West Point military base near New York, out of sight of the television cameras.

Bank bombed: A bomb exploded outside the Bank Melli Iran in San Francisco early today, shattering windows in the bank and those in another bank across the street. There were no injuries (AP writes from San Francisco).

A telephone call to news agencies said the bomb was set off by the Jewish Defence League because of "persecution of Iranian Jewry", but the league's state director denied responsibility.



West Point welcome and a rest for the returning American hostages as their buses reach the military academy

Decision on West Bank settlements upheld

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Jan 26

The parliamentary foreign affairs and security committee, meeting in Jerusalem today, upheld a disputed Cabinet decision to establish three new Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank. The settlements will be the seventh, eighth and ninth of the 10 Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, has said would complete his government's settlement programme.

The committee rejected an appeal by Professor Yigael Yadin, the Deputy Prime Minister, against the Cabinet's decision, which he said would close options for a peace settlement. Under the coalition agreement, his party retains the right to appeal against Cabinet decisions to the committee, on which the parliamentary Opposition is represented.

At today's meeting, Labour opposition deputies surprisingly supported the Government's decisions or abstained in respect of two projects—Cekoa Beth in the barren Judean wilderness and Mitzpah Govrin north-west of Hebron. They said both conformed more or less with the party's concept of settlement vital for Israel's security.

They voted solidly against Hinanit Beth, west of Jenin, which they said was sited in an area inhabited by Arabs.

The project still requires formal approval by a joint committee of Cabinet ministers and World Zionist Executive officials, as well as a budgetary allocation from the Government. Mr Ariel Sharon, chairman of the joint committee, is expected to press for an early start on the new project in view of the decision to shorten the tenure of the Government.

In a separate development, Herut Cabinet ministers clashed over a group of about 100 squatters who were preparing to spend their third night on a windswept hilltop north-west of Jerusalem, where the Government has planned a Jewish suburb, to be called Giron.

Mr David Levi, the Housing Minister, said plans for the project were nearing completion and the squatters were intruders who must be ejected. Mr Sharon argues that it will take years to build the suburb and the presence of Jewish settlers in the interim was vital. He wanted to provide temporary housing.

Confessions retracted: Two Druse brothers suspected of murdering a political rival of their father, Knesset member Shaikh Jaber Muadi, have retracted statements to the police implicating themselves in the crime, Mr *Shlomo Toussia-Cohen*, their lawyer, said today.

He said Seif Muadi, an Israel Army officer, and *Dahesh* Muadi, a prison warder, told him they were innocent of the murder of Shaikh Hamad Abu Rabia, in Jerusalem on January 12. They claim police had used improper methods to extract their statements. The lawyer said he had not yet met the third brother, Hayeel, since he allegedly made his statement.

Mr Toussia-Cohen said he had written today to the Attorney General, protesting at police methods. He said Seif Muadi told him he had been promised that the case against his father and brother would be dropped if he assumed sole responsibility, and had been assured he would be freed after a "Sulha" or reconciliation feast, between the Druse and the Beduin.

French seek Nigerian support against Libya

From Ian Murray
Paris, Jan 26

Chad and Libya will be the central topic discussed at a series of meetings arranged here this week for Mr Ishaya Audu, the Nigerian Foreign Minister. His official visit began today with a meeting with President Giscard d'Estaing.

Nigerian relations with France have been cool since Paris supported Biafra in the civil war over a decade ago. Nigeria has also been somewhat alarmed by what it considers to be continuing French imperialism.

The proposed merger between Chad and Libya has gone a long way towards smoothing relations again, with both France and Nigeria viewing the Libyan advance with equal concern. Nigeria, with its great oil reserves, is seen in France as a particularly stable nation in the area and of vital importance as a bastion against the expansionist ideas of President Gaddafi of Libya.

Like France, Nigeria wants to see the territorial integrity of Chad retained, although there are some reservations on the Nigerian side about the wisdom of France having sent extra troops to Chad's neighbours after the merger was announced.

President Gaddafi has demanded the withdrawal of all French troops from Africa and is seeking to make this an issue for the Organization of African Unity to discuss.

Mr Ali Triki, the Libyan Foreign Minister, had been touring a number of African capitals in recent days to press this point, while claiming that it is still possible to maintain good relations with Paris.

In Chad itself fighting is continuing in the north east of the country, close to the Sudanese border, between Libyan and pro-Libyan troops and supporters of Hissene Habre, the former Chadian Defence Minister, who has enjoyed French support in the past.

In the south of the country Vice-President Wadal Kamougue has declared that the merger with Libya is "an impossible marriage", and he hinted in a television interview at the weekend that he might be prepared to invite French troops into Chad.

It is highly unlikely France would be tempted to do such a thing, other than to save French nationals in the country who might be threatened by the civil war.

Embassy wives in Luanda bake their own bread to avoid food queues

Plenty of fish in Angolan waters—for Russians

From Anthony Lewis
Luanda

A drive around this sprawling city any morning makes a visitor immediately aware of Angola's No 1 problem: the distribution of food. There are queues outside the supermarkets waiting for the doors to open at 10 am; some have been there since the curfew ended at 6 am.

There is enough food in Luanda—no one looks hungry. But it is a time-consuming struggle to find this item or that from day to day: bread, salt, soap, fruit. Embassy wives bake their own bread and grow their own vegetables to save the effort.

An American businessman with an interest in a factory here says his biggest problem is absenteeism. That is understandable, he explains. "To get food or clothes our employees have to stand in line. We are trying to help by arranging to have a store right at the plant."

Shortages are not unusual in developing countries. Next door in Zambia, which achieved independence from Britain peacefully more than 15 years ago, salt and soap are also hard to find. But Angola has a special and overwhelming reason for its problems: the way Portugal ran the place as a colony and left it in 1975.

The Portuguese were not just a thin top layer here, a colonial élite. They were the taxi-drivers, the secretaries, the waiters and, crucially, the farmers. At independence 300,000 Portuguese pulled out, taking cars and lorries and whatever else they could move. Virtually no one was left who knew how to do anything.

Even to find a typist or a driver was impossible at independence, Mr Paulo Teixeira Jorge, the Angolan *Foreign Minister, said, and it is* still hard.

A western businessman who deals with the Minister of Industry said: "The minister has no assistant—none. If someone is qualified, we need him at our plant more than the minister does."

In 1975 about 90 per cent of the population of six million was illiterate. Mr Jorge said that since then 500,000 have been taught to read and write the official language, Portuguese, which some had not even spoken.

In a speech last October, Mr Manuel Pedro Pacavira, the Minister of Agriculture, said that Angola had one of the world's great forest reserves, but that the way things were going it might soon have to import wood for coffins.

A potentially rich country, it has oil and other minerals and good agricultural land, but organization and distribution are chaotic. The situation is said to be much worse in outlying areas than in Luanda.

A big question on people's minds—and sometimes in their conversation—is the role here of the Soviet Union and its communist allies. The Soviet Union supplies most of Angola's weapons. Cuban forces *came in 1975 to help what is* now the governing party, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, and 17,000 Cuban soldiers are still here.

But apart from substantial Cuban aid in building apartment blocks and in supplying teachers, the communist countries contribute little on the economic side. Or, at least that seems to be the popular feeling. Fishing, the most visible Soviet economic activity—very visible—is taking from Angola rather than giving.

Soviet factory ships can be seen every day in the Atlantic, right off Luanda, and there is evident resentment at their vacuum-cleaner methods. "We have some of the best fishing grounds in the world," an Angolan said, "but it is difficult to buy fish, and you know why."

Luanda is not exactly like other cities in sub-Saharan Africa. In look and feeling it is more nearly Mediterranean, doubtless reflecting the Portuguese influence here in south-western Africa.

It is a city of pastels and white. There are some tower blocks, put up in a false boom just before the Portuguese left. The charm lies in such build*ings as the National Bank of* Angola, a long, low fairy-tale structure in pink stucco with white columns, and trim and a central dome covered in red tile.

The bank is on a palm-lined explanade that runs along the harbour front. Across the water is a sandy peninsula that contains one of Luanda's two operating hotels, the Panorama, and a mile away a shabby naval training station with a sign in Russian outside. The end of the peninsula is a beach. On Sundays it is crowded, and cafés offer drinks and ice-cream cones. Old foreign hands say the open cafés are a sign, one of many, that things are improving.—New York Times News Service.

Mr Dayan apologizes to blacks

Jerusalem, Jan 26.—Mr Moshe Dayan, the former Israeli Foreign Minister, today apologized to American black leaders for remarks implying that the United States Army was suffering because of its large numbers of "poorly educated blacks".

"Some real damage was done by his statement," Mr Bayard Rustin, a black leader, said after a half-hour meeting with Mr Dayan here.

Mr Dayan made the remarks recently in Israel on return *from a trip to the United* States. He said that the American Army did not have credibility because of the large number of poorly educated black volunteers who make up the army.

"I don't want a misunderstanding—least of all with you," Mr Dayan told the group of four black leaders.

Foreign Ministry officials said that Mr Dayan had meant to say that an effective deterrent force could not be based on volunteers alone, because the qualified and educated American youth were lured away from military service by better careers.

Mr Rustin said: "His clarification was satisfactory to us.... Of course we accepted hhis apology."—UPI.

Afghan guerrilla groups increasingly divided

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad, Jan 26

The differences among the various groups of Afghan guerrillas seem to be becoming sharper, at a time when they expect all the Islamic states and other nations opposed to Soviet expansionism to take effective steps to force the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan.

Today a leader of one of the Afghan groups accused the leaders of two others invited to the Islamic summit in Taif, Saudi Arabia, of being opposed to the Islamic character of the revolution in Afghanistan. Mr Qazi Muhammad Amin Waqad, chairman of the political committee of the extreme right-wing Hezb-E-Islami, Afghanistan, even suggested that Mr Syed Ahmeg Gilani, leader of National Islamic Front of Afghanistan and Sibghatullah Mujadadi, leader of Afghan National Liberation, who are attending the Islamic summit, were influenced by pro-communist elements in Afghanistan.

Mr Qazi Waqad alleged that these two leaders were even responsible for misuse of aid to the Afghan refugees. He failed to say how they were misusing the aid, but said assistance offered to them and their colleagues was a misuse of aid.

Mr Qazi Waqad also described the Pakistani efforts to get a dialogue with Kabul under United Nations auspices as of no importance to him and his party. He said that talks, secret agreements or resolutions on Afghanistan without the involvement of the *mujahidien* (guerrillas) would not be acceptable to the Afghan people. He said that the Islamic stand on Soviet occupation of Afghanistan was becoming weaker and weaker.

He called on the heads of Islamic states to send a study mission to Afghanistan for what he described as true evaluation of the situation, sever immediately all political ties with Kabul and recognize only the *mujahidien* as the legitimate representatives of the Afghan people. His statement seemed to imply that leaders who have been sitting in various world capitals ostensibly to secure assistance and win international opinion had no right to speak for the people of Afghanistan

In brief

Mugabe-Nkomo peace move

Salisbury, Jan 26.—Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister and Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Patriotic Front (PF) party leader, held talks lasting 90 minutes today in an attempt to heal a growing rift between them over the January cabinet reshuffle in which Mr Nkomo was effectively demoted.

Mr Nkomo has denied any personal resentment over his demotion from the Home Affairs ministry but has warned

Undertakers missed

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 26.—A wave of deaths from drinking Samsu, a home-made brew, has caused a problem at Kulim, 180 miles north of here. Among the 29 moonshine victims were all but one of the local undertakers.

Journalists freed

Istanbul, Jan 26.—The Turkish authorities have released two senior journalists who work for the newspaper *Hurriyet*, but another is still detained. The journalists were held after a story about proposed price increases appeared.

Passenger ship adrift

Jakarta, Jan 26.—An Indonesian passenger ship, Tampomas, is drifting in the Java Sea with nearly 1,000 people on board, but the fire which disabled it is apparently under control.

Mozambique earns British thanks for Zimbabwe help

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

The need to maintain pressure on South Africa in order to bring about a political settlement in Namibia was emphasized by Mr Joaquim Chissano, the Foreign Minister of Mozambique, in talks with Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, in London, yesterday.

Since the independence of Zimbabwe, relations between Britain and Mozambique have greatly improved. Lord Carrington expressed his special *thanks to Mr Chissano for the* support which Mozambique provided *in* the run-up to *independence in Zimbabwe.*

The present round of talks covers trade and economic development, in which Mozambique is seeking to extend contacts with Britain. Today Mr Chissano will call on Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, and meet members of Parliament, including Lord Soames, former Governor of Rhodesia. Tomorrow he continues his official visit with a tour of the port of Liverpool.

So far as Namibia is concerned, the British Government remains committed to elections *and* independence, as laid down in the United Nations plan. But until the new American *Administration* has had time to study the question more fully, little progress is expected.

Mr *Richard Luce*, Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Foreign Office, will visit Uganda between January 30 and February 4, it was announced yesterday. This will be the first ministerial contact with President Obote since his election.

Cardinal Hume's parting shot at Nationality Bill

The Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Hume, who flew to West Germany yesterday, reaffirmed his opposition to the Nationality Bill before he left.

In a statement issued on Sunday, Cardinal Hume and other Catholic archbishops of England and Wales told Mr William Whitelaw, the Home secretary, of their "grave misgivings" over the controversial Bill, which is due for its second reading in the Commons today.

At Heathrow Cardinal Hume said: "There is no doubt that the Bill is causing a lot of insecurity and worry among a number of people resident in this country. One can only hope that those responsible will take into consideration our statement."

Food shortage in Kampala after price cuts ordered

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Jan 26

Market vendors and small traders in Kampala had almost nothing to sell today, after government and party leaders had ordered them to reduce the prices of everyday items by as much as 80 per cent in an effort to control inflation.

The traders said they could not buy supplies to sell at these prices, because farmers were *insisting on a realistic return* for their produce.

Last week hundreds of small vendors and hawkers were rounded up by police, and their small stocks were confiscated. This and the subsequent order to cut selling prices had thrown the established distribution system into confusion, and city workers found it impossible to buy food today.

The Government of President Milton Obote has declared war on smuggling, black marketeering and corruption. But Ugandans say there is little point in declaring unrealistically low prices if this means that no food is placed on sale.

The new "official" prices reduce a bunch of plantains, the local staple diet, from 400 shillings (£22) to 75 shillings, while milk which has been selling at 30 shillings a half-litre packet is supposed to sell at three shillings.

The Uganda High Court is due to start hearing the first of a series of election petitions this week, filed by the opposition Democratic Party to challenge the results of last month's elections which brought the Uganda People's Congress to power.

South African black newspaper to arise from ashes of old

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 26

Blacks in the Johannesburg area are to have a new daily newspaper from the beginning of next week. It will replace *The Post*, which was forced out of business after the Government announced last week that it planned to ban it and its sister publication *The Sunday Post*.

The new paper is the *Sowetan*, at present is published as a weekly. It is produced by the Argus company which published *The Post* and before that *The World*, which was banned in 1977.

Announcing his company's plans to turn the *Sowetan* into a daily paper, Mr Hal Miller, the managing director of Argus, said that the paper's editor would be Mr Joe Larakgomo, who was acting editor of *The Post* at the time of its closure.

Mr Miller said that many of the black journalists who used to work on *The Post* would be employed by the new daily. However, it was necessary to retrench some of the editorial staff.

In the meantime Mr Justice M. T. Steyn, who is heading a commission of inquiry into the mass media in South Africa, said today that he wanted access to information which led to the enforced closure of the *Post* papers.

However, Mr Kobie Coetzee, the *Justice* Minister, who had accused the two papers of creating a "revolutionary climate" in the country, said he had no plans to give evidence to the commission.

The enforced closure of the two papers has focused attention on the Government-appointed commission, which for the past five months has been accumulating volumes of evidence on the mass media.

Mr Steyn is a former Administrator of South-West Africa (Namibia) and, more importantly, the author of a 217-page report last April into press reporting of police and defence matters.

The Steyn Commission's terms of reference are to: "Inquire into and report on the question whether the conduct of, and the handling of matters by, the mass media meet the needs and interests of the South African community and the demands of the times, and, if not, how they can be improved."

The breadth and ambiguity of these terms of reference have been interpreted by government critics as being a thinly disguised attempt by Mr Pieter Botha's administration to use the Steyn Commission as a basis for imposing stricter controls on the South African press.

This view has been reinforced by a study of Mr Steyn's earlier report which received scant attention at the time it was published.

That document contained a clear suggestion that there should be a partnership between the Government and the press and that both should have a commitment to the Prime Minister's "total strategy"—the strategy whereby Mr Botha is trying to coerce as many South African individuals and institutions into supporting his ostensibly reformist and confederalist policies.

The report stated that the Government required a clear information and communications policy as "an integral part and parcel" of its national strategy. "Such policy would aim to promote the national strategy and neutralize the propaganda onslaught against South Africa", it said.

Nothing that has been heard or said since the present Steyn Commission began sitting last August has indicated that there has been any significant shift in the official thinking about how newspapers should operate.

The commission, which is now sitting in Cape Town, has heard a mass of evidence from a wide variety of sources. These have ranged from newspaper editors, who have pleaded for fewer rather than more controls, to disgruntled MPs—and even to a member of the defence forces "psychological intelligence" department, who argued that newspapers had an important role to play within the Government's concept of "total strategy".

Last week the commission heard a lengthy submission from the Newspaper Press Union, which represents all but two of South Africa's regular daily and weekly newspapers. As part of its submission, the union expressed its "deep concern" at a system which led to the closure of *The Post* and *The Sunday Post*.

The union argued forcefully against further restrictive legislation to control the press, pointing out that newspapers were already subject to almost 100 laws. Some of these laws, such as the Internal Security Act, the Defence Act and recently introduced laws on inquests, prisons and police, already give the authorities extensive powers.

While continuing to pay lip service to the principle of press freedom, successive Nationalist Governments have sought to impose greater controls on South African newspapers which still manage to remain remarkably free and outspoken.

However, the Government—anxious to retain the remnants of its tattered democratic image in the western world—has so far avoided approving a press Bill. The draft of such a Bill was introduced in Parliament three years ago, only to be ignominiously dropped.

Cool meeting between two presidents

Continued from page 1

blow to Muslim hopes and aspirations "at a time when our total effort should have been devoted to meet the grave challenges in Palestine and Afghanistan".

But the Afghan Government, like the Iranian Government, had sent no delegates to the summit that marks the dawn of the Muslim fifteenth century.

The Iranian flag snapped on the aluminium staff outside the conference chamber but there was not one spokesman for the nation which has created so unprecedented an upheaval in the Muslim world. The Afghan people were represented by a powerful clutch of rebel leaders who could be permitted to attend the conference only as observers.

Egypt, for whom forgiveness has been gently proffered by the Saudis, showed no sign of abandoning its alleged betrayal of the Arab world. So the largest Arab nation did not even have its flag on display.

King Khalid, it is said, is earnestly persisting in his attempts to heal the enmity between Syria and Iraq. But President Assad and President Husain did not even speak to each other when they sat a few feet apart in the Great Mosque at *Mecca yesterday.*

And when the Iraqi leader left the Conference Palace this afternoon more than 30 Iraqi security men protected his departure. It took all of five limousines to carry them away.

Japan pledges not to resume aid to Kampuchea until Hanoi withdraws its occupying troops

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Jan 26

Japan will not resume its aid for the reconstruction of Indo-China until Vietnam withdraws its troops from Kampuchea, Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, said today.

Stating that Japan intended to play a more positive role in international affairs, he told *Parliament that his Government* would do as "much as possible" to help in the reconstruction of Indo-China once peace had been restored in the area.

"But it is regrettable that the present situation is not a proper climate for resuming our assistance to Vietnam."

Mr Suzuki said Japan had called on the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene an international conference on Kampuchea.

"Among the problems having a *major* bearing on peace and stability in Asia are the problems of Kampuchea and the Indo-Chinese," he said.

Mr Suzuki used strong language to criticize the Soviet Union and emphasized that Japan had ratified a treaty of peace and friendship with China.

Tokyo had no intention of concluding a similar pact with Moscow until Soviet troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan and from the Kurile islands.

"The Soviet Union is an important neighbour of Japan's, yet relations between our two countries remain in a difficult period as a result of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. The military build-up on our *northern* islands and other deplorable events", Mr Suzuki said.

Mr Suzuki added that Japan hoped to strengthen its bonds with China. Moscow has alleged that Tokyo and Peking are attempting to forge an informal alliance—together with the Association of South-East Asian Nations—to contain the Soviet Union's thrust in Asia.

Calling on Japan to play a greater political role in international affairs, the Prime Minister said that Japan would have to take a *positive* stance in the world because the country was not endowed with resources and therefore could only be assured of its security in a peaceful and stable world.

Japan's relations with the United States was the cornerstone of the country's foreign policy.

Difficult to find suitable Phnom Penh representative

Khmer guerrillas unable to unite

From Our South-East Asia Correspondent
Bangkok, Jan 26

A leading problem for the non-communist countries of South-East Asia intent on ejecting the Vietnamese from Kampuchea is identifying a personality with sufficient standing to represent Phnom Penh at the United Nations.

The dilemma for the non-communist nations of the area is that the only organization capable of mounting any respectable military resistance to the Vietnamese remains the discredited Khmer Rouge.

The non-communist alternatives, however, are scarcely viable. The *various elements of* the Khmer Serei (Free Khmers) have largely distinguished themselves from others through their ability to get rich at the expense of their countrymen, and their self-defeating factionalism.

The best hope of an alternative *leader* to sit at the United Nations, in the view of the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, is Mr Son Sann, a former Prime Minister under Prince Sihanouk, who *recently announced that he* would form a provisional government before the next session of the United Nations General Assembly. He is President of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) and occupies a hill-top jungle base inside Kampuchea *opposite the Thai* province of Chantaburi.

*The problem with the grand*fatherly Mr Son Sann is that plans and projects are so far all he has been able to come up with, though his supporters say that the KPNLF has been responsible for many of the *military operations inside* Kampuchea that the Phnom Penh Government attributes to the Khmer Rouge.

KPNLF members are bitter at what they feel is the inability or unwillingness of the "free" countries to help.

The front could however, quickly improve the level of outside support if it would comply with the suggestion of a merger with the Khmer Rouge, put forward by not only the other non-communist coun*tries of South-East Asia* but also the Chinese.

The problem is that the idea is abhorrent to the KPNLF membership. Occasional cooperation on military operations inside Kampuchea is not ruled out but anything beyond that is unthinkable at least to the *present leadership.*

The front claims to have about 100,000 Kampuchean civilians in its settlements on the border between Thailand and Kampuchea with more than 10,000 guerrillas either fighting for the movement inside Kampuchea or ready to do so in *the Heng Samrin Army.*

As with all the parties to the Kampuchean conflict it is hard to evaluate the claims the KPNLF *makes for itself*, but at present it is hard to see it capable of any consistent political or military competence.

Members insist, however, that they would prove their abilities if given the chance.

Vietnamese promote technocrats to key posts

From David Watts
Singapore, Jan 26

The Vietnamese Government has announced changes in some senior posts which reflect both the failures of the second five-year plan and new policies which could set the country on a more pragmatic course.

The changes bring into the *Government young technocrats* who, it is hoped, will increase the efficiency of industry and food production. Many of the new names are little known outside the country although they are replacing some of the longest-serving members of the Communist Party.

The past year has been one of atrocious ill-fortune in Vietnam not only for industry but for agriculture with up to *40 per cent of the rice crop* in the north lost to typhoons.

Over the past two months Vietnam has admitted publicly what analysts had known for some time—that the second five-year plan, 1976-80, was a failure, particularly in agriculture.

The changes are designed to bring in men who are more flexible in the application of socialist principles, and ready to apply techniques aimed at *building socialism* with a Vietnamese face. Judging by recent policy statements, the intention is to give freer range to individual *effort to help pull* Vietnam out of its vicious cycle of poverty and under-development.

Most of the changes are among ministries concerned with food, food production and trade. Mr Ho Viet Thang, who was appointed Minister of Food Supply only in April, 1979, has been replaced by Mr La Lam Gia. He appears to be as little known as Mr Thang was before he assumed the post. Mr Tran Van Hien is *relieved* of the Ministry for Home Trade which is taken by Mr Tran Phuong, formerly chairman of the State *Planning Commission.*

Responsibilities for energy supplies for industry have been split between two ministries, most probably a reflection of the difficulties Vietnam has had in getting reliable electricity supplies for factories. Mr Nguyen Chan, formerly Minister for *Electricity and Coal*, becomes Minister of Mines and Coal while a newcomer. Mr Pham Kai, takes responsibility for the Electricity Ministry. Mr Chan has formerly held the post of Minister for Heavy Industry.

Mr Tranh Quynh, formerly vice-chairman of the State Planning Commission, is appointed a Deputy Prime Minister while his place on the *State Planning Commission* is taken by Mr Vu Dai, another newcomer.

The emphasis in the new line-up will be on reducing excessive dependence on ideology, though there is no sign that ideology is going to play any lesser role in the conduct *of the country at the national* level.

An example of the Government's more pragmatic approach can be seen in agriculture over the past few *months* with official approval given to share-cropping.

Collectivization has failed the *Vietnamese to a large extent* and individuals working their own land have been producing significantly more rice than collective farms. Ironically those first involved in this share-cropping, in which the Government provides land, seed and equipment takes a quota *and leaves the rest to the* individual, have been soldiers demobilized in the south who have returned to their homes in the north.

Many soldiers who returned to the land in this way have been impressed by the relative efficiency of the south and *shown resentment at the burdens* and inefficiency of the northern system

The scale of the failure of the past five years in terms of food production, can be gauged from the fact that originally 1980 was to have been the year in which Vietnam attained self-suffi*ciency in food production* with an annual output of 21 million tons of grain. After successive crop failures that target was reduced to 15 million tons but even that was missed by several million tons. As a result Vietnam was short of millions of tons of food last year.

The target for food production in 1981 has been held at the same figure as last year but again that will not be enough to feed the country. Millions of tons will again have to come from friendly socialist countries and the international agencies.

British arms offer to Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 26.—Britain is ready to give more help to expand Malaysia's armed forces, Lord Trenchard, the Minister of State for *Defence, said today* when he arrived for two days of talks *with Malaysian leaders.*

He said his visit was designed to find out Malaysia's needs and priorities for the strengthening of *its defences.*

Malaysia has plans to build up rapidly its defence forces to withstand a conventional war. The Government has said it will spend about £1,000m on defence and internal security this *year*—22 per cent of its budget.

Lord Trenchard's visit so soon after his appointment earlier this month also reflects British interest in reviving the 11-year-old five-power defence arrangement (FPDA) involving Britain, Malaysia, Singapore, *Australia* and *New Zealand.*

Lord Trenchard said that although Britain could not keep the military presence in the *Far East that it had once main*tained, it still wanted to use its influence to support the Australian initiative to revitalize the Arrangement.

The member countries of the FPDA agreed last week to hold regular consultative council meetings. Joint maritime and land exercises have also been agreed upon later this year, the first involving all five members since 1970.

*Lord Trenchard's visit coin*cides with that of Sir Ronald Ellis, Britain's head of defence sales in the Defence Ministry, who said yesterday he would be offering Malaysia aircraft, naval vessels, equipment and military technology for the construction of air bases.

Lord Trenchard, who is deputy to Mr John Nott, the new Defence Secretary, will have talks tomorrow with Datuk *Hussein Onn, the* Malaysian Prime Minister, who also holds the defence portfolio.—Reuter.

Peking dissociates Mao from Jiang Qing crimes

Peking, Jan 26.—The official Chinese press today hailed the suspended death sentence imposed on Jiang Qing, widow of Mao Tse-tung, as a just verdict but indicated that it should not be taken as an implicit condemnation of her late husband.

The party newspaper *People's Daily said the crimes committed* by the "gang of four" during the Cultural Revolution should not be confused *with errors made by the leadership*, a clear reference to Mao's role in that tumultuous decade.

It said the Cultural Revolution was a "complex phenomenon in the history of society and consisted both of destruction caused by the counter-revolutionary cliques led by Lin Biao (former Defence Minister) and Jiang Qing and also of *errors* committed by the party leadership".

It added: "If we confuse these two matters which are different in character, we will not be able to correctly sum up the lessons we have drawn from the experience".

In a commentary last month, the *People's Daily* directly blamed Mao for launching the Cultural Revolution but subsequent articles have softened the criticism and emphasized his positive achievements.

Apart from the "gang of four", the defendants in the *recent trial consisted of Mao's* former political secretary and five senior military officers.

Jiang Qing was yesterday seen on television being ejected from the court after yelling *revolutionary slogans which had* been edited to make them inaudible. One newspaper today reported that she shouted: "To rebel *is justified, making* revolution is not a crime".

The *People's Daily* said that although the gang and their associates had received their just deserts, this did not mean class struggle did not exist in China.

Little emphasis has been put on the *Maoist* concept of class struggle since the downfall of the gang in October 1976 as the new, pragmatic leadership is *anxious* to obtain the support of the educated middle class in order to carry out China's modernization.

"We oppose increasing class struggle and certainly should not artificially create class struggle but must also oppose the view that class struggle has *died out", the paper said.*

Mr Zhoy Kyizheng, the lawyer for one of the 10 defendants in the Gang of Four trial, has reported receiving requests to defend other people, the *People's Daily* reported today, heralding the end of a "lawless era".

The newspaper said lawyers formerly were denounced in China as "rightists" for "defending bad people". Now, it *said, China was setting out to* firmly establish rule by law.

Mr Kyizheng represented Jiang Tengjiao, aged 61, a former Air Force political commissar accused of plotting to kill Mao Tse-tung.—Reuter and AP.

Nazis' American connexion

Los Angeles, Jan 26.—Mr Simon Wiesenthal, the Nazi hunter, said here that American neo-Nazis were writing racialist and political propaganda, *translating it into several languages*, and distributing it to European countries such as France and Spain.

Mr Wiesenthal, who has specialized in tracking down war criminals who survived the Third Reich, told an audience of 2,500 that European neo-Nazis could not exist if they were not fed with propaganda written in the United States.

The visit of Mr Wiesenthal, *who is based in Vienna* coincides with an upsurge in antisemitic vandalism in southern California, including the paint-spraying of slogans and swastikas on walls of Jewish institutions and cemeteries.—Agence France-Presse.

Chinese uncover 28 tombs with 1,000 relics

Peking, Jan 26.—Chinese scientists have found the biggest burial place discovered so far from the period before the Chin dynasty (221-207 BC).

According to the New China news agency, more than 1,000 relics including gold and jade objects, bronzes, iron implements and pottery vases were found, as well as the curled-up bodies of slaves buried with their masters in the 2,800-year-old burial complex.

The site, with 28 large tombs, is three miles south of the *main* town of Fengxiang district in Shanxi province, the capital of the Chin state from 677 to 383 BC. The city was a political, *economic and cultural* centre for about 300 years.

The agency said excavation began there in 1976 and has provided important material for studying political and economic conditions, military affairs, culture and history preceding the Chin dynasty.—AP.

Bangladesh says Chittagong hill tribes' lawlessness was provoked by terrorists

By Caroline Moorehead

Harassment of the tribes of the Chittagong Hill Tracts is being vigorously denied by the Bangladesh High Commission in London. The denials have come in response to a series of statements made at the Anti-Slavery Society recently by three aid experts returning from the area. They reported a picture of repression, eviction from homelands, and desecra*tion of Buddhist temples.*

Other, independent accounts of killings, rapes and kid*nappings* have also come from *the area.*

The Bangladesh High Commission admits that the hilly 5,093 square miles of country in South-east Bangladesh, traditionally the home of the 13 Chittagong Hill Tract tribes, is the scene of considerable lawlessness, and that murder, arson and looting are prevalent.

But they deny any undue violence or policy of repression on the part of government forces, and blame the disorder *not on tribesmen but on* a "group of terrorists and bandits" and "miscreants" provoking the tribes to militancy.

They also deny that the number of police and troops in the area has been increased. The Anti-Slavery Society observers mentioned a large concentration of army units in the tribal lands.

In particular, the High Commission is anxious to clarify the events of last March 25, when according to the society, a Captain Kalam ordered his men to open fire on tribesmen assembled in a clearing to protest at the incursion of Muslim Bengalis, encouraged by the Government to settle on their lands.

According to the Bangladesh statement, "a group of tribal *armed miscreants attacked the* security posts at Kalampati . . . simultaneously setting fire to the houses of non-tribal Bengali settler families". A *riot then broke out between tribesmen* and settlers, which the security forces brought "under control".

The society says it will be *pursuing its inquiries* into the matter.

The truth or falsehood of accounts of individual skirmishes *does not*, however, alter the basic position. The Chittagong Hill Tract tribes, most of them religiously and ethnically different from the Bengalis, and until 1947 when the district became part of Pakistan, largely self-ruling, are in the face of what they consider government hostility, seeking self-determination.

Nevertheless, the Bangladesh Government, as the High Commission statement makes *plain*, sees the hill tracts as "an integral part of Bangladesh and one of its 20 administrative *districts" in an overall policy* of "building up the country on the basis of Bangladesh nationalism."

Fashion

by Suzy Menkes

I have often wondered why there was no British national costume. Austrians have their lederhosen and braided pinafores, Spaniards can sport mantillas and Americans can certainly lay claim to blue jeans. We British have nothing we can identifiably wear as our own.

But last week, as I searched for heavyweight woollens, I realized that Our Island Race has a national wardrobe in traditional knits. Arans, Guernseys and Fair Isles have never been more popular as fashion garments. We take them absolutely for granted as cold weather wear, yet in them are stitched generations of folklore: wave patterns, ropes, anchors, knots, the enduring symbols of seafaring folk.

It is difficult to be dramatic about the homely craft of knitting or to think of a winter woolly as *an art form*. But by one of life's familiar ironies, we have begun to appreciate the hand-knitted sweater just at the moment when the traditional knitters and wearers are being lured away—one to work on an oil rig or in a hotel, the other towards mach*ine washable factory knits.*

The black gold could drown a tradition of a thousand years, according to Mr William Bill, whose Bond Street shops are filled with soft Scottish woollens — cashmere rugs as fine as a Scotch mist, cheery random-striped shetland sweaters, *painstakingly patterned Fair* Isle yokes and hand-woven tweeds neatly labelled with the name of its creator.

There is an enormous demand for the famous Harris tweed and for hand-knitted woollens, particularly from overseas customers. But secretarial work *for oil companies is more* rewarding and appealing to many a Mrs MacGregor than toiling away alone in the back parlour on what always used to be a labour of love.

Home knitters in Scotland still welcome knitting pin-money, according to Mr Padruig Goodman, chairman of Inverallan Knitters, a specialist hand-knitting company that finds its once local wares now in demand as far afield as Japan and Australia, as well as in fashion meccas like Paris and New York.

Much the same Arans that are internationally on *sale* appear in the Book of Kels, where Daniel feeds the dragon in an earlier incarnation of an Aran mini-dress and tights (probably already being revived by some sharp-eyed fashion designer). The Icelandic sweaters, knitted on a circular needle, also have an ancient historical tradition. Mr Goodman tells me that the same technique used by Inverallan's Knitters can be seen in a madonna and child *painting* done in Hamburg in 1400, where the baby Jesus is having a matinee jacket knitted up by the Wise Men. (I am sure they soon became wise enough to leave knitting to their wives.)

Do you really care who knitted your sweater, especially if you can get it cheaper off the factory floor? I am not one of these enthusiasts who believes that it adds to life's *pleasures to know the* hen who laid your breakfast egg. But individual hand-knits are not unduly expensive for what you get and are immensely appealing.

Because the traditional knits were developed as working clothes for sailors and fishermen, they remain supremely practical, especially for these bleak winter months, when our wardrobe seems as dull as the leaden skies and the new spring clothes in the shops are alarmingly thin.

A tide of eager shoppers surged through Guernseys Galore when I was looking at the traditional sweaters they have revived or adapted for the current fashion climate. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Women's Institute in Guernsey who asked one knitter to write down her pattern in 1946, when the island's knitting tradition had been all but lost through the Occupation and through the advent of machine knits. That pattern, with its rows of fishermen's knots round the bottom, the ripples of sand in garter stitch; *the ribbed cause*ways and fish-shaped gusset, .. what you will be wearing still today, even if it has craftily been elongated into a sweater dress or made in a range of 14 colours as well as the traditional sailor blue.

The test of a true Guernsey is that it weighs a pound and outlives its wearer. Selling a sweater that is more or less *guaranteed indestructible* seems a far cry from modern business methods. It certainly adds to the charm.

Above: Traditional Aran cardigan in Bairnin wool with bone buttons £41.50, natural only. Fair Isle shetland slipover made to order (three-months *delivery*) £47.50, *both from* W. Bill, 93 New Bond Street, W1. Checked sports shirt by Laurel £21.95, bow-tie £7.95, scarf £1.95, culotte skirt in sage green, khaki or navy £26.95. Ribbed tights by Elbeo £4.50 and leather and wool gloves £4.95, all from Fenwick of Bond Street. Studded leather ankle boots in khaki, green, blue or white £24.99 from Lilley and Skinner.

Left: Guernsey dress with symbolic patterned yoke and knotted hem £35 in air force blue, navy, bottle green or red from Guernseys Galore, 49 Moreton Street, London, SW1. *Plaid* cashmere *rug* worn as shawl from W. Bill, 93 New Bond Street and 23 Old Bond Street, London, W1. Tartan *belt* £1.95, check shirt *in beige or green* £21.95, leather patched gloves £4.95 and Elbeo ribbed tights *£4.50 all from* Fenwick of Bond Street.

Make-up by Arianne for Models One.
Hair by Lundy at Toni Guy.
Photographs by JEANY.

Snippets

■ Nancy Reagan looked splen*did in her poster paint red coat* and hat at the inauguration ceremony, like some bright robin bobbing beside the new President.

The First Lady's fashion style is the epitome of band-box American chic, what that transatlantic fashion bible, *Women's Wear Daily*, dubs as "American thoroughbred style".

Nancy Reagan's favourite designer is the Cuban-born Adolfo whose grand ball-gowns with rustling taffeta skirts grace the best Washington parties. He also makes easy Chanel-type suits reminiscent of the style of America's last trend-setting President's wife—Jackie Kennedy, who preferred the real French thing.

In the new upsurge of patriotism, *I am sure that most* Americans will be pleased to see that Nancy Reagan, with her trim silhouette and impeccably groomed appearance, believes in America the Beautiful.

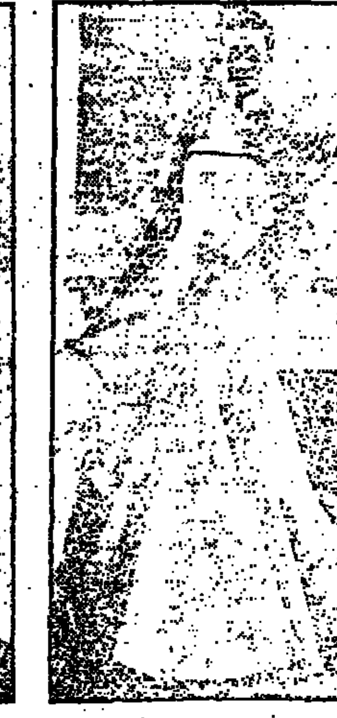
■ The nearest we have got to First Lady fashion style in Britain *is Hardy Amies*, whose couture house in Savile Row has just celebrated its 35th anniversary.

His latest spring/summer collection, designed by Ken Fleetwood, and shown last week, was a mix of couture and ready to wear with the emphasis on tailoring in the former, and *on casual dressing for the off*-the-peg clothes.

There were some exceptionally pretty fabrics used with great imagination and style, especially in a series of silk afternoon dresses (where else can you get them?) and in a border printed silk chiffon *evening dress with blocks of* colour picked out to band the hem.

Trousers feature more strongly than ever in the ready-to-wear collection, including a chic cream suit worn with a tobacco brown silk T-shirt and a stylish jacket in madras check.

Ken Fleetwood knows his clientele, and gives his evening gowns a gentle dropped waist or a few kind tucks across the tummy. His *pièces de resistance* were a *Scarlett O'Hara powder* blue taffeta ball gown, and a slim column of fabric dotted black and white with a scenic *vista of palm trees and clouds* rolling across the hemline.



■ "We don't like to see hair on the floor, we like to see it on the head" is a theme that will appeal to anyone who has ever suffered from a hairdresser's unkind cut.

I sent my assistant, Hazel, who has waist length hair and a phobia about encroaching scissors, to brave Harrods' new Long Hair Clinic, which opens next Monday.

George Michael, this rare man among hairdressers who believes *only in dry club cut*ting and simple setting, told her that Oriental women have the glossiest long hair because of *their diet.*

Fortified not by a Chinese take-away but by his treatment products, you are expected to *return only to have a few split* ends removed or to have your hair washed and put up (£9.50) or left down (£7.50).

Some more tricks of the trade George Michael has learned in his Madison Avenue salon in New York are not to click the scissors and so frighten off his clients, and to use brushes hand-made from the hair of a wild boar. And I wonder who trimmed that poor beast. . . .

£990m for BL to fund corporate plan over two years

House of Commons

The Government is to make available £990m to BL over the next two years to fund the company's corporate plan, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, announced in a statement.

Sir Keith Joseph said: The corporate plan contains BL's strategy for returning the company's businesses to viability in the medium term. It foresees a need for some £620m of additional Government equity in 1981-82, £370m in 1982-83, and £150m over the two following years, in order to assist the continuing programme of restructuring and investment in new projects, including the new LC10 medium car family.

The plan was submitted in four business sections. The policy of the BL Board has been (and will continue to be) to decentralize decision-making to the operating units. The intention of the Board as stated in the plan is to draw these operating units into four distinct businesses to enable management to concentrate on well-defined product groupings.

These businesses are BL Cars, Land-Rover, Unipart and the Leyland Group. As the structure evolves, so the progress of each business will be separately monitored.

The Board is meanwhile exploring a variety of possible forms of collaboration, and has written to the Government in the following terms:

The Board sees collaboration with other manufacturers as an important part of its strategy for recovery and for reducing and eventually removing dependence on Government support. This might take the form of collaborations on components or on particular parts of the business; but the Board would also welcome, and actively seeks, a relationship of a more comprehensive kind which might grow out of such collaboration.

The Government supports BL's intention of creating viable businesses and of attracting private capital into them. It has approved the plan and has agreed to fund *the first two years of the plan* (including the first phase of the LC10 programme)—that is £620m in 1981-82 and £370m in 1982-83—subject to regular monitoring by the BL Board of progress in achieving the plan.

The Government as shareholder will also be watching closely the financial performance of the company.

The chairman's letter to me of today's date also makes it clear how the Board will respond if the chances of achieving the Plan's major objectives are appreciably reduced.

He says that:

Circumstances may arise in which, through a substantial deviation in performance or an appreciable departure from the assumptions underlying it, the corporate plan is clearly not being achieved and it appears impossible to bring about recovery within the timescale envisaged.

This could arise for external or internal reasons; an example would be a major strike which damaged or appeared certain to damage any substantial sector of the business.

In such circumstances the Board would, in accordance with section one of the plan, very quickly initiate a review (in consultation with the Government) of the plan of the relevant business group, with consequent implications for continued Government funding.

The Board and management have assured me that they will not hesitate to take whatever difficult and fundamental decisions about the future of the company are necessary if circumstances, inside or outside BL, require it.

There will be an opportunity for full debate in the context of the amendment to the NEB's financial limit in respect of BL in the Industry Bill which I shall table for consideration at report stage. Clearance from the European Commission will be needed for the Government's funding.

Finally, it is the Government's intention that the shareholding in BL should be transferred from the National Enterprise Board to the Secretary of State. This transfer will not, however, take place until the Industry Bill now before Parliament receives Royal Assent.

Meanwhile the Government will discuss with BL matters arising from the change of ownership, in order to ensure continuity of BL's *financial arrangements.*

The Government wishes the BL Board and the company's employees well in their task.

'No guarantee that this vast payment will be the last'

Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on industry (Salford, West, Lab): The Opposition welcome the fact that the Government is to support the corporate plan to the tune of £1,000m because we believe, as obviously the Government believes, that this company is vital to the economy of this nation and to the million jobs attached to British Leyland in one form or another.

Therefore we think that, despite the opposition from the Conservative benches, the Government has taken the correct decision.

Will he give an assurance that this money will not lead to cuts in other parts of the public sector?

We want more details about the four sections which the corporate plan recommends, the fact that under the Industry Bill he will be taking control of the shares from the National Enterprise Board and the reference to private investment in part of his statement.

We would like an assurance that when the Industry Bill comes back before the House we will get a full day's debate to deal with the British Leyland aspect.

Then there is the key factor of labour relations in British Leyland. It is why production has increased and productivity, particularly on the new Metro. We want that to continue and therefore need cooperation between the management and trade unions.

It is to be regretted that this corporate plan has not been brought forward on a joint basis. We would have liked to see that and to see him using his good offices to see that industrial relations are improved in this company.

With the narrowing base of industry in this country at the moment, it is important that a major car-based, publicly-owned British company should be maintained. We want to see it maintained as a publicly-owned company. We do not want to see it broken up or divided or sold off.

On that basis we believe there is a great future for British Leyland and I believe the workers and management believe the same.

Sir Keith Joseph: Nothing like one million jobs depend upon British Leyland, however important it may be for jobs.

He asked for an assurance that the money will not come out of the public sector. Where does he think it is going to come from? Of course, money of this order constrains the public sector.

It is true that some parts of the *private sector will get benefits* from the spending of this money. That is welcome, but the rest of the money is going to come from the taxpayer, who will therefore have less money to spend in other parts of the private sector.

Mr Hilary Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch, C): I welcome with many hundreds of thousands in the west Midlands the Government decision and the lie given to Labour claims that this Government would not support British Leyland.

Would he confirm that the monitoring of British Leyland will in the main be undertaken by the British Leyland board rather than the Government and that the Government welcomes and accepts the need for collaboration with another major manufacturer?

Sir Keith Joseph: *Yes*, although the Government as shareholder will also be watching closely the financial performance of the company. I have quoted from the letter from the company chairman about collaboration.

Dr David Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, Lab): I welcome the decision to aid this key strategic industry. Will he say that in supporting competitive public enterprise he will also give it the same managerial freedom as the French Government *has* given to Renault and allow that which has turned that company around—higher than average wages for car workers in that industry?

Sir Keith Joseph: I cannot believe he is giving us good advice. The decision about pay is for the board and workers of British Leyland.

Mr John Bruce-Gardyne (Knutsford, C): Could he elaborate on his reply about where these funds are to come from? Are they to come from increased taxation of private enterprise business, from a higher level of borrowing, hence a higher rate of interest and a higher exchange rate, or are they to come from the Treasury?

Sir Keith Joseph: The Government has to obtain the money it spends from taxing, borrowing or printing. There is no other source. The actual allocation of this cannot be traced and identified, and certainly public spending of this order has implications for the assessable income of the private sector.

Mr Geoffrey Robinson (Coventry, North-West, Lab): There is a great welcome for this decision from this side of the House and a great deal of sympathy for the agony that this decision caused him.

What puzzles us is to know whether his continuance in office shows he is a masochist or the Prime Minister—a sadist.

Can he elaborate on the provision of funds? Is all of the £990m going to the LC 10 programme in *the first two years or could* he confirm the Jaguar new model programme, as agreed, will be funded by this Government?

Sir Keith Joseph: I must refer him to the BL report.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington, C): While I have no objection to the principle of investing public funds in industries of this sort, there is a horrible sense of deja vu about this in that the statement made by Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn (Bristol, South-East, Lab) on the board of Rolls-Royce carbon fibre affair and the euphoria that engendered has some similarity with the goodwill of Sir Keith Joseph about BL.

Could he make one thing clear, namely that the only reason why the Government have not agreed to break up BL into its constituent parts is because Sir Michael Edwards threatened to resign if it did so?

Sir Keith Joseph: I do not follow his question. The decision about securing private capital in different parts of BL is for the board, and the timing and extent is for them.

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L): In what way has the Government used its influence to try to consolidate recent improvements in labour relations or are they continuing to rely on a policy of executions?

Sir Keith Joseph: I do not think the Government have a particular skill in affecting labour relations inside individual firms.

Mr Michael Grylls (Surrey, North-West, C): Everybody in this House wants, and prays, that BL in the end will succeed. The cost has been high — £10 for every second Sir Michael Edwardes has been chairman of BL, or £1,000 for every small business in the whole of Britain.

Money is not the cure-all for British Leyland. What it needs is increased productivity rather than decreased, much more demanning and that can only succeed by its own exertions.

Sir Keith Joseph: I agree with that. It needs good models and a healthy car market. We are witnessing the introduction of new models.

Mr Greville Janner (Leicester, West, Lab): When considering the number of people whose jobs depend upon British Leyland, has he taken into account the hundreds of thousands of people not employed by British Leyland but who manufacture parts and provide services in the East Midlands and elsewhere and who will welcome this decision as much as the people directly employed by Leyland?

Sir Keith Joseph: Yes. He would be misleading himself when he talks about hundreds of thousands of people.

Mr Alan Clark (Plymouth, Sutton, C): Many of us see the need for an industrial strategy and for the diversion of some public funding in that direction, but we are a *little surprised to see him of* all people talk of such schemes with such insouciance and we feel that British Leyland can justify no criterion save that of exerting social and political blackmail to justify such an enormous diversion of funds from the private sector.

Sir Keith Joseph: Let him contemplate that there has been enough evidence over the past year to encourage a degree of hope that the progress already made with a new model now introduced and with the acceptance of new working practices, together with a rundown of manpower in the two plants, could lead as the market improves to better results this year: provided that we do not witness a rise in sterling as sharp as last year.

Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes, C): The arguments in favour of further funding of BL and the success of the *Metro has put a* totally different complexion on the situation and there are high hopes for the prospects of the middle range car in the future.

What benefits will there be from the transfer of BL from the NEB to the department?

Sir Keith Josesh: There are certainly some signs for hope. The transfer of BL from the NEB to the Secretary of State reflects the wish of both the NEB and BL and the recognition that the sums of money involved are such that the Government cannot stand aside from decisions on them.

Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C): Can he confirm that this vast payment will be the last? (Labour laughter.)

Sir Keith Joseph: I can give no guarantee. (Labour laughter.) I hope that if sterling does not rise as it did last year and new models are of the standard of the Metro, this company will be put on its way through the plan to viability.

Mr Ioan Evans (Aberdare, Lab): Is he moving a little way from his monetarist policies? Although this was costing the nation £1,000m, it would cost the nation far more if BL was allowed to collapse.

Sir Keith Joseph: There is certainly no escape for the taxpayer from costs flowing from the decision of the then Labour Government virtually to nationalize BL all those years ago.

One way or another, supported or unsupported, the taxpayer would have a big bill to meet. The number of jobs directly dependent upon BL are about one in the supply industry for every one job in BL associated with output, ignoring jobs which have been de-manned.

Mr Tom McNally (Stockport, South, Lab): He has made the right decision and it is going to be welcomed by engineering and machine tool companies. Instead of coming along in this miserable way, he should be banging the dispatch box *and saying this is* good news for British industry.

Sir Keith Joseph: The money has to come out of other aspects of industry. It is true that this will be welcome news to those supplying BL itself, but there are other purchases that would have been made in other parts of British industry that will, alas, *not* be made because all public spending is an act of choice.

US being pressed to deregulate gas prices

The Government was pressing the Government of the United States to accelerate the deregulation of its gas prices, Mr Norman Lamont, Under Secretary for Energy, said during a question on the additional cost to British industry of the recent increase in gas prices.

Mr Lamont (Kingston upon Thames, C): The most recent available figures show that for the first three quarters of 1980 increases in gas prices, if there were no alteration in consumption, would represent an additional cost to the consumers of some £200m.

Mr Philip Whitehead (Derby, North, Lab): Is he aware of the extremely serious position of Courtaulds where the recent increases have added £300,000 to the bill for a firm which has just shed 2,000 of its 6,000 employees?

Britain is at a great competitive disadvantage compared with the United States. Firms are going out of business as a result of the Government's policy.

Mr Lamont: I am aware of the representations he has made on behalf of firms in his constituency. One of them will certainly benefit from the concessions which the Secretary of State for Energy (Mr David Howell) referred to recently, about the price for new gas contracts.

Britain is at a disadvantage on gas prices compared with the United States and this Administration is pressing the United States Government strongly to accelerate the deregulation of gas prices there.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton, North, C): Although we fully support the idea that gas should be charged at market prices, some countries in Europe are cheating and thereby gaining competitive advantage. Will he see that levies are introduced so that Europe does not continue to export its unemployment to Britain?

Mr Lamont: I am aware that other countries are subsidizing or cheating and the Government will certainly take strong action and that is what it has done in the case of Dutch horticulturalists.

Gas prices in Europe are also increasing rapidly in real terms. Industrial gas prices have increased in France by 100 per cent in two years and in Germany by faster than the United Kingdom rate of 5 per cent in real terms.

Mr Edward Rowlands (Merthyr Tydfil, Lab): Small firms are complaining bitterly and justifiably about the swingeing increase in gas prices in the last year. What are his department's estimates of the price increases in the coming year? We have heard press reports of 25 per cent again this year. Small firms cannot take these continual increases.

Mr Lamont: No decision has been made by the Gas Corporation yet about increases in industrial prices. Consultations are still proceeding. I note what he said about small firms; there is something in that, though a large number of complaints the Government has received are from larger users.

These are not Government-imposed or tax increases, but BGC price increases. His Government at the behest of the IMF imposed a 10 per cent increase in gas prices.

Concern at escalating costs

Mr Norman Lamont, Under Secretary for Energy, said that he was concerned about the escalation of costs in advanced gas cooled reactors generally. The industry had to come to grips with its costs otherwise the economic case for nuclear power would be endangered.

The situation (he said) is not one that can leave us complacent.

Mr Lamont said during questions that following the statement by the Secretary of State for Energy on December 18, 1979 and on April 14, 1980, the structure of the nuclear industry had been strengthened and work was in hand on the two new advanced gas cooled reactors and on the design of the latest pressure water reactor. The opportunity now existed for the creation of a strong and efficient nuclear industry in the United Kingdom.

Move to block national insurance rise fails

House of Lords

Under the Social Security (Contributions) Bill, a section of earners would be facing an unfair burden compared to people earning high incomes, Lord Wells-Pestell, for the Opposition, said when the Bill was considered in committee.

On Clause 1 (increase in contributions), he moved an amendment further to increase the contributions of people earning more than £200 a week.

He said the Bill provided for an increase of 1 per cent in the national insurance rates of those earning between a lower amount of £27 a week and an upper amount of £200 a week. There was a need for every government to raise more money to meet a variety of different types of expenditure, but the method adopted in this Bill was seriously open to question and, in some measure, quite unfair.

Under the Bill, a £27 per week earner would pay 7.75 per cent of his earnings as would the £200 a week earner, but he was not likely to be eligible for income tax so the extra 1 per cent he was required to pay was a form of taxation.

The person earning £200 a week would pay £15.50 per week national insurance contribution. At this point, the amount remained fixed, regardless of what he might earn in future and regardless of what anybody else was earning.

The amendment provided that anybody earning above £200 a week should pay an extra 1 per cent or £1 per week for every additional £100 of earnings. If the Government needed to raise more money, this was the most equitable way to do it.

Lord Nugent of Guildford (C) said the effect of the Bill with all the curious anomalies of the national insurance fund was to levy a charge on the citizens. The practical effect of this was exactly the same as changing the incidence of taxation.

Lady Young, Minister of State for Education, said this was not a money Bill. It was quite proper for the House to discuss it. Although she would ask the House to resist the amendment, and therefore hoped the House would not divide, she understood this would be possible should the House wish to do so.

She understood the House did not seek to amend money Bills but this Bill was concerned with a fund and therefore it was technically possible for peers to amend it.

The amendment was a wrecking amendment and would have a profound effect on the Government's medium-term strategy. Such a change would be quite unworkable for both employers and the Department of Health and Social Security.

Even if it were workable it would be financially disastrous. The amendment would mean the primary contribution proposed in the Bill would be reduced from 7.75 per cent to 6.75 per cent and there would therefore be a loss of £900m.

The additional primary contribution would raise about £34m. The national insurance fund would risk being in deficit by about £850m.

The amendment was withdrawn.

An amendment to reduce the proposed contribution from 7.75 per cent to 7 per cent was rejected by 131 votes to 66—Government majority, 65.

The committee and report stages were concluded.

The Merchant Shipping and Parliamentary Commissioner (Consular Complaints) Bills were read the third time and passed.

The Forgery and Counterfeiting Bill was read a second time.

House adjourned, 6.38 pm.

Government will not be seeking to dismember Forestry Commission

The Government was not engaged in pillaging the Forestry Commission in order to line the pockets *of the private sector, Mr George* Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said when moving the second reading of the Forestry Bill.

Mr Younger (Ayr, C) said the first objective of the Bill was to enable the Forestry Commission to dispose more freely of some of the forestry land placed under its management by ministers.

The second objective was to allow ministers, with Treasury approval, to direct the payment of specified sums from the Forestry Fund to the Consolidated Fund.

The third was to provide for the appointment of an additional Forestry Commissioner, who, the Government hoped, would have business and commercial experience outside the forestry and wood using industries and would provide additional advice on commercial aspects of the commission's activities.

Taken together, the proposals were a neessary adjustment to take account of a new stage in the Forestry Commission's operations.

The Government saw greater scope for participation by private forestry although it intended to maintain the successful partnership between the private sector and the Forestry Commission.

It was right to make more active use of the capital invested in its assets over the years with the aid of public funds by seeking private investment. That would be done by selling a proportion of the Commission's woodlands and land awaiting planting.

Present powers were not adequate to give the Commission greater commercial freedom to sell some of its land and plantations *and thereby reduce its call* on the Exchequer for the future funding of the forestry enterprise.

I should like to make it clear (he said) that it is no part of our policy to dismember the Forestry Commission, and there is certainly no question of our placing it at a commercial disadvantage by creaming off all its best and most productive areas.

Nor are we engaged in pillaging the Commission in order to line the pockets of the private sector. The Commission will be in full control of the disposals programme, the scale and location of which will be at its discretion.

The rate of disposals would depend partly on market demand but also on the need to maintain coherent and effective management. Some plantations would be for outright sale but others would be leased back on a commercial basis for continued management by the Commission.

In deciding the method of sale and in selecting areas for disposal under the new policy the Commission would be taking into account a number of important factors. Paramount among those was the need to ensure long term supplies to wood-using industries, the effect on employment and special commitments to public recreation and amenity.

The Forestry Commission would make every effort to minimize the effect of sales on jobs in the forest, particularly in areas where it was a major employer.

In addition to land under plantation, it was proposed to sell up to a third of the Commission's reserves of plantable land to the private sector for afforestation. The remainder would be the basis of the Commission's continued new planting.

The Government intended that the Forestry Enterprises' current cash flow deficits should be reduced by a new form of income, from sales of woodlands made possible under the Bill. This was a new market to be explored and likely, as land transactions did, to flow unevenly.

It was not the intention to allow short-term fluctuations in the property market to disrupt the long-term programmes of the commission.

Therefore, to avoid difficulties arising from an uneven flow, the Government would separate the commission's expenditure and cash limits from the proceeds of the sale of land and plantations and of surplus assets by transferring these proceeds to the consolidated fund as extra receipts.

With private forestry growing in size and capability *it was* both feasible and desirable to encourage private enterprise to consolidate and extend its participation in the industry.

He believed the opportunities created by the Bill for private investment in the Forestry Commission's assets would be welcomed.

As they were taken up they would increase the scope of private enterprise in forestry, reduce public expenditure, and assist the commission in responding to the increasingly competitive commercial environment in which all the enterprises, public and private, must operate more effectively to restore the country's economy.

Short-sighted and doctrinaire Bill

Mr Bruce Millan, Opposition *spokesman on Scottish affairs* (Glasgow, Craigton, Lab), said that one would not think from the bland way Mr Younger had introduced the Bill that it would allow the minister completely to dismember the Forestry Commission.

The Government's doctrinaire position on the public sector borrowing requirement and the need to reduce public expenditure and the need to sell off as much as possible of public assets were the reality behind this.

The economic position was not satisfactory. The country was still 90 per cent dependent on imported wood products and the effect on the balance of payments was £3,000m.

They all knew by studies of the Centre for Agricultural Strategy and the Forestry Commission that world demand in the twenty-first century was likely to expand considerably and there was little prospect of world supplies meeting increased demand. Prices were likely to be a good deal higher in real terms, discounting inflation.

The fact that developing countries would be able more and more to supply wood products would place a further burden on the balance of payments. The country would become extremely vulnerable because it was so largely dependent on wood supplies from abroad.

It was a matter of common prudence for the United Kingdom to look ahead to the problems facing future generations and to extend forestry activity.

Neither this Government nor past governments had done enough in terms of the rate of planting. They had not done enough, either, to defend their wood processing programmes. The closures at Fort William and Ellesmere Port had been indications.

It did not make sense for 200,000 tonnes of wood previously processed at Fort William to be exported, principally to Norway, and reimported as newsprint at 20 or 30 times the cost of the raw product.

No other European country would have allowed that kind of situation to have developed.

The Government by this Bill was also breaking the former bipartisan attitude to forestry and that was dangerous and damaging.

The clause providing for disposal of land was framed in absolute terms without qualification and it would be possible for ministers to achieve the complete dismemberment of the Forestry Commission. Ministers should indicate today the kind of figure they had in mind and the kind of disposals.

The Bill meant that the Forestry Commission would be squeezed in every possible direction. It would have to sell off a large part of its plantable land and would not get enough money to make up the stock of plantable land again because of cash limits.

It would not be able to plant at the level at which it wished to plant and was to be forced because of the operation of cash limits and this Bill to sell off a good deal of mature of semi-mature forest to private enterprise.

That was the reality of what the Government was doing and all the blandness of the Secretary of State did not disguise that reality.

There were also cuts in the Forestry Commission's research activities and it was entering into no new recreational activities because the money had been taken away. That money and that kind of activity could not be made up by private enterprise. Whatever else private enterprise did it could not make up for the loss of recreational facilities that would be involved in the sale of Forestry Commission land or the reduction in the commission's activities.

If private investment in forestry was to be expanded to compensate for the inevitable effects of this Bill the cost to the taxpayer was likely to be a good deal more than the cost of allowing the Forestry Commission to go ahead with the job in the way it was able and willing to do.

This enterprise was highly unlikely to save any public money. It was being done ultimately for doctrinaire rather than sensible reasons.

There were serious management reasons why a large Forestry Commission enterprise should be maintained. There were many respects in which private enterprise could not do the job which the Forestry Commission did—particularly, it could not provide the assurance of supply that some of Britain's larger wood using industries needed.

This Bill, innocent-looking as it might appear when the Secretary of State explained it, could have the most disastrous effects on British forestry, and could mean the end to the bipartisan approach to forestry matters.

It was a short-sighted and doctrinaire Bill and Labour MPs were utterly opposed to it.

Minister's undertaking on planting rate

Sir Hugh Fraser (Stafford and Stone, C) said one problem was going to be finding the land available for forestry. There could be a danger that the Forestry Commission would be pushed out into the most arid areas of land and their expenses would go up and the burden on the taxpayer, and the agricultural and other departments would increase.

There should be more emphasis on private enterprise, but the one thing that should not take place was the destruction of the Forestry Commission.

Mr John Parker (Dagenham, Lab) said the Bill would break up an agreement between the parties which had operated for a considerable time. That would be a disaster for forestry.

Mr William Benyon (Buckingham, C) said that the crunch was whether the Bill would provide more trees in sufficient numbers to have a major impact on imports. Nine per cent of Britain's requirements were produced by the national forests, but the import bill amounted to £36m and that was likely to soar. Consumption was outstripping production and replacement throughout the world.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, Scot Nat) said the Bill was another example of the Government's intention to reduce public expenditure and to restructure state enterprises. It could be the watershed in the management of forestry since the commission was being asked to raise its own funds through the sale of land which it controlled.

Mr Peter Mills (West Devon, C) said he welcomed the Bill, but only just. He could understand the Government's intentions but could see dangers if the proposals were carried too far, which they might be.

Mr Geraint Howells (Cardigan, L) said he was alarmed at the possibility that large blocks of forest or whole commercial forests may be sold.

Mr John Home Robertson (Berwick and East Lothian, Lab) said the Bill meant an end to long-term planning. It appeared that no piece of Forestry Commission land would be safe from hiving off.

Miss Joan Maynard (Sheffield, Brightside, Lab) said the Bill could only be described as a rip-off. It removed the restrictions on the disposal of land required for forestry and was an obvious piece of public asset-stripping.

Mr Mark Hughes, an Opposition spokesman on agriculture, (Durham, Lab), said this was a pitiful, pettifogging little Bill which did nothing to deal with the long-term requirements of the forestry industry, whether private or public, or with the national economic requirements for forestry products for balance of payments purposes.

Mr Jerry Wiggin, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Weston-upon-Mare, C), said it was the firm intention, however far the swing might be to the private sector, that there would be a minimum planting rate of at some time in the future for the Forestry Commission of not less than 5,000 hectares a year. This year's programme would bt something over 20,000 hectares.

Forestry Commission sales in the forthcoming year would be about £10m and in the following years about £15m.

The Bill was read a second time by 301 votes to 240—Government majority, 61.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons
Today at 2.30: Debate on sale of Times Newspapers Ltd. Debate on Armitage report on heavy lorries.

House of Lords
Today at 2.30: Wildlife and Countryside Bill, committee (first day), Bill of Rights Bill, report.

Work going ahead on design of PWR

Mr Norman Lamont, Under Secretary for Energy, denied, in response to questions, that there was a slippage in the design work on the pressurized water reactor.

He said that work was now proceeding on the design of the PWR and on preparations for the public inquiry into the project, but it was too soon to say when the PWR might be commissioned.

Mr Peter Rost (South East Derbyshire, C): There is already a serious slippage in the time-table on the design of the PWR. How does the minister think this will affect the total time-table for the construction and completion?

Mr Lamont (Kingston upon Thames, C): That is not quite right. The Secretary of State (Mr Howell) and I had a meeting last Friday with all those concerned with the preliminary work on the PWR, and I do not think it is right to say there is a slippage on the design work. We know that in this country there have been problems with all power stations, nuclear and conventional. Industry has to get to grips with these problems or nuclear energy will not be economic.

Mr John Evans (Newton, Lab): In vew of the public hostility towards the PWR does the minister think it is necessary to go ahead

Mr Lamont: The electricity industry, in consultation with the Energy Department, continually revises and re-examines its electricity forecasts.

We are satisfied that in the 1990s there is going to be a need for more nuclear electricity. Nuclear electricity is also cheaper.

Mr Merlyn Rees, chief Opposition spokesman on energy (Leeds, South, Lab): Whether there is a slippage or not, in last week's debate it was announced that there were no terms of reference and no time scale for the inquiry. Does this mean there will be a delay in the PWR and that the department ought to be considering further orders for the advanced gas reactor?

Mr Lamont: No. We expected the inquiry would begin in 1982 and that if the findings were in favour of the PWR construction would be in 1983. Construction of the station could take six or seven years but we are at the stage where a lot of work still has to be done on the design.

Emergency debate on sale of 'The Times'

Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on trade, successfully sought an emergency debate to discuss a reference of the proposed purchase of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* by Mr Rupert Murdoch to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Smith (North Lanarkshire, Lab) said: The present owners of these papers appear to have reached agreement to sell them to Mr Murdoch and that agreement, in turn, requires the approval of the Secretary of State for Trade (Mr John Biffen) in terms of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

I assume an application for his approval has already been made.

The acquisition of these newspapers by Mr Murdoch will create a very large concentration of newspaper power in one ownership, precisely the circumstances which Parliament had in mind when it passed the newspaper mergers provisions of the Fair Trading Act.

I appreciate that assurances have been given by Mr Murdoch and appreciate the concern over employment and the desire to keep both papers in existence. I believe, however, that if a reference is made, coupled with a request for an early report, proper examination of this large concentration of newspaper power could be made within the several weeks set aside by the parties for negotiations.

The matter is urgent because a decision must necessarily be imminent. And, of course, the sooner a reference is made, the sooner a report can be made available for the consideration of us all.

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas) said Mr Smith had given notice on Friday that he would seek an emergency debate to discuss the matter.

I am satisfied (he continued) that the matter he raised is proper to be discussed under the emergency procedure.

When The Speaker asked if Mr Smith had the leave of the House for his proposal, a large number of Labour MPs stood up.

The Speaker then said the motion for the adjournment of the House would stand over until the commencement of public business tomorrow when a debate would take place for three hours.

Mr Arthur Lewis (Newham, North-West, Lab) then told the Speaker: While appreciating that you have the sole right to decide who should speak in tomorrow's debate, would you note that when you asked for MPs to give their support for this, not one Tory rose.

The Speaker: Strictly speaking, it is not necessary for the 40 MPs to *rise* unless somebody shouts "No" and there is an objection. I have noted his point.

Mr Lewis: But I wanted to get it on the record that not one of them would stand up in *support* of the debate.

The Speaker: I was not alone in understanding Mr Lewis's motive.

Mr Peter Bottomley (Greenwich, Woolwich, West C): Many other MPs would have noticed that I did stand so Mr Lewis was wrong.

Palace of Westminster in sad and sorry state

The structure of the Palace of Westminster was in a sad, sorry and in many respects dangerous state, Mr Greville Janner (Leicester, West, Lab) said at question time.

He had asked Mr Francis Pym, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what proposals were being considered by the Services Committee for the cleaning and restoration of the Palace.

When Mr Pym told him that the committee had made their own proposals in their fourth report of the last session and that implementation of the report was a matter for the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Janner asked him: Will he do all he can to ensure that the recommendations of the committee are *implemented as soon as possible* and before the building falls down and becomes infintely more expensive to maintain than in the past?

Mr Pym (Cambridgeshire, C): I am sorry he should use slightly exaggerated language. I do not think that is helpful. There was a report from the Services Committee on the fabric of this building in the last Parliament, as a result of which nothing happened (Laughter.) It returned to the subject in this Parliament and has reported. We are awaiting the views of the Secretary of State.

Animal ferocity in killing of couple, judge says

A man said by Mr Justice Chapman at Chelmsford Crown Court, Essex, yesterday to have attacked a couple with animal ferocity was sent to Rampton hospital for killing Steven and Hilary Burroughs, whose marriage in September, 1977, was shown on television.

Mr and Mrs Burroughs were killed, it was stated, in a frenzied attack. They were repeatedly stabbed with a butcher's knife and bound, gagged and tortured in their home.

Russell John Hart, aged 34, a labourer, of no fixed address, was ordered to be detained indefinitely at Rampton. He pleaded not guilty to murdering the couple but admitted manslaughter, on the grounds of diminished *responsibility*. The pleas were accepted by the prosecution.

Mr Raymond Sears, QC, for *the prosecution*, said Mr Hart had insisted to the police that he could remember nothing about the killings, and showed remorse only when he learnt that Mrs Burroughs, aged 25, had been three months pregnant.

"The full horror of what went on in that house for some unknown period of time is now locked up in the defendant's twisted mind", counsel said.

A policeman found a scene of horror in the couple's home at Milton Road, Brentwood, Essex, Mr Sears continued. The bodies were in pools of blood in the lounge. Their wrists had been bound with nylon stockings and Mr Burroughs had a pair of tights round his neck.

Mrs Burroughs had been *stabbed 15 times and* Mr Burroughs had three deep stab wounds.

Actress and 'The Observer' settle libel case

A libel action brought by Siobhan McKenna, the actress and theatrical director, against *The Observer* over an article written by Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, the paper's editor-in-chief, was disposed of on agreed terms in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Charles Gray, her counsel, told Mr Justice Jupp that she had taken the view that the article, headed "On being a Jewish wild goose" and published on June 3, 1979, repeated a suggestion made by some television viewers after an American interview in 1956 that she had some prejudice against Jewish people.

The Observer accepted that Miss McKenna's original remarks were not intended to be *offensive to the Jewish people* and that she was not antisemitic. It expressed regret.

Detective on bribe charge granted bail

An east London detective was remanded on bail at Waltham Forest magistrates' court, London, yesterday charged with bribery and corruption.

Det Constable Bernard Brindley, aged 34, of Station Lane, Hornchurch, is alleged to have offered a £1,000 bribe to Alan Beattie, a Leyton detective, on March 26, 1979, as an inducement *to show favour to* Anthony Hart.

He is also charged with accepting a £200 bribe from William Hart in February, 1979, and inciting Mr Beattie to pervert the course of justice.

Constable Brindley is further charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice

Vast haul of stolen antiques discovered in Wales

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

Senior members of the South Wales Constabulary displayed at Sketty, Swansea, yesterday 304 items from what could be one of the most valuable hauls of stolen antiques ever recovered in Britain. The items, which filled a large room, may be worth £250,000 and represent only a fifth of the haul.

The antiques were recovered after members of the regional crime squad had for many months watched a detached house in the city. Police moved into the house on Friday, and yesterday were planning to hire furniture vans to empty the premises of suspected stolen valuables and artifacts.

The display included furniture, icons, silver, clocks, paintings and gold. Some of the items have obvious sentimental value and others, such as a ring clustered with diamonds the size of small peas, are of great intrinsic worth.

One item is a drawing of Princess Victoria bearing the legend that it was presented by her to Emily Augusta Lampton on June 16, 1829.

The police, who are still investigating the circumstances surrounding the discovery, consider the haul must have taken years to accumulate.

Ashbee's inexhaustible fund of decorative ideas

C. R. Ashbee and the Guild of Handicraft
Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum

Robin Tanner/ Turner and the Bible
Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Sir Francis Chantrey, Sculptor of the Great
National Portrait Gallery

C. R. Ashbee, evidently, was one of those people who could provoke only extreme reactions: in person he seems to have been either adored or detested, and much the same has gone for his work, at least during the periods since his heyday when it has been considered at all. He was, clearly, an English eccentric. By formation he was a Cambridge aesthete, but under the influence of Edward Carpenter he developed a mildly fantastic cult of the working lad (whom he was, admittedly, rather likely to transform in his imagination into a Greek god, particularly when encountered nude in the midst of the Cotswold countryside). But unlike most such dreamers of the 1890s he set out to do something practical about his fantasies, by forming in the East End a Guild of Handicraft which would gather together and train talented young workers and, he hoped, offer a viable alternative to the industrial revolution both in the way of life it proposed and in the crafts it produced.

It worked rather better, and longer, than most such ventures largely because of Ashbee's own talents as a designer of great versatility, and because of the worldly wisdom that was buried somewhere in his complex nature. This latter enabled him to deal with all classes of men when it suited his purpose, negotiate the risky and apparently quixotic move in 1902 of the whole guild from the Mile End Road to Chipping Campden, and keep it going in its new environment for five productive years. It is this period in Ashbee's career which provides the central matter for a fascinating new exhibition which is in Cheltenham, about as close as may be to the original locations of the venture, until February 28, and will arrive in London at the Fine Art Society in early May. There is, however, a particular point to seeing it in Cheltenham if one can, as there it is located right next to the museum's permanent collection of the contemporary Cotswold arts-and-crafts community, prominent among them the furniture makers Ernest Gimson and the Barnsley brothers, whose work does give an invaluable context to that of Ashbee and his followers.

The range of Ashbee's own designs and those made under his supervision is astonishing. His style is a curious compromise between the contemporary norm and the new trends introduced by the Aesthetic Revival, the Arts and Crafts Movement and, most dubious of all, Continental Art Nouveau, the very idea of which was anathema to Ashbee, Walter Crane, De Morgan and their kind, even though its influence is very perceptible. The most highly regarded of Ashbee's work these days, rightly, is his fine metalwork, particularly the beaten silver. Here, and in his related jewelry, he had an inexhaustible fund of decorative ideas, but allied with a strong feeling for massing and overall construction (even on a very small scale), so that his tankards, cruets, muffin-dishes and such, as well as his more imposing ceremonial silver, all have satisfying profiles from whatever angle one looks at them—clearly it was not for nothing that he originally trained and continued throughout his life to practise as an architect.

Ashbee's furniture, to my taste, is considerably less accomplished: here the classic fluted legs sort ill with the chunky, arts-and-crafts shapes of the rest. But the books Ashbee created for his own Essex House Press look very good. It has long been the fashion to dismiss Ashbee's type-designs as aberrant because they were so eclectic in their incorporation of hints from all over, but it must be admitted that as laid out by him and combined with his own black-and-white illustrations in (most ambitiously) the *Prayer Book of Edward VII* they seem perfectly fitted to their place in his own personal kind of the Book Beautiful.

After the collapse of the guild in 1907 Ashbee stayed on in the Cotswolds for some years, increasingly out of touch with the postwar world; some of his guildsmen, more successfully, reformed themselves into a looser, more practical association, the traces of which still persist in present-day Campden. And of course the Cotswolds have anyway remained the craft centre of England. An artist-craftsman who has lived all his life hard by, in his home town of Chippenham or in the adjacent parts of Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, is Robin Tanner, a striking retrospective of whose work is currently on show at the Ashmolean (until February 22) after a successful opening in Bristol. Robin Tanner is now 76, and still as busy as ever drawing and etching and readying for publication *Woodland Plants*, a magnum opus written by his wife and illustrated by himself which has been in leisurely progress for the past 40 years.

Tanner is virtually the type of the quiet, self-effacing, essentially conservative artist who cultivates his own garden, perfects his own small area of art and lets the rest of the world go by, except for his teaching activities (to judge from the work of some of his youngest pupils on show here he must have been a teacher of genius). What he does in his art is to draw and etch, almost obsessively, the plants and flowers of the English countryside. The etchings are perhaps his best-known work, though that is saying little, despite the sterling work done by Robin Garton in recent years to familiarize it. A perfectionist, during more than 50 years, he has made only 31 prints, all of them included in the show and all illustrated and described in *The Etcher's Craft*, a book entirely lettered by him which has been published by the Friends of Bristol Art Gallery to coincide with the exhibition (£10).

Small though the corpus of work is, it unmistakably takes its place in the great tradition of Palmer and the English rural visionaries. But what one could not guess from even the best reproductions is the fineness of his ink and pencil drawings of plants, many of them made, modestly enough, to illustrate a local seedsman's catalogues. You have to look very closely to work out that some of them are actually ink drawings rather than etchings or engravings; but however closely you look you cannot account for the mysterious intensity of these images, suffused as they are with an almost mystical pantheistic sense of the oneness of all creation. In this at least Tanner is the true heir of the Pre-Raphaelites: his concern for the exact rendering of physical reality is so minute that his art takes on an hallucinatory quality, passing insensibly over from realism to superrealism to surrealism without our ever quite knowing what bit us.

While in the Ashmolean it is well worth taking a look at a small but intriguing exhibition on the subject of *Turner and the Bible*, which documents the various stages by which Turner took information from drawings done on the spot in Bible lands by Sir Charles Barry and others and turned it into watercolours which were then made over again by the engraver into Finden's *Landscape Illustrations of the Bible* (1833-36). All stages are visible in the show, and easily the most fascinating part of it is the insight it offers into the creative process: one can actually catch Turner in the act of becoming Turner.

Similar insights are proffered on a contemporary of Turner's, the sculptor Sir Francis Chantrey, in an exhibition now at the National Portrait Gallery (until May 17). Chantrey was a model rags-to-riches story such as captious foreigners always imagine cannot happen in class-bound British society. He began his career as a grocer's lad, and progressed by degrees to being the most fashionable portrait sculptor of his time, knighted, hobnobbing socially with the great and famous, and able to leave at the time of his death in 1841 the extraordinary fortune of £150,000, mostly for the setting up of the fund named after him for the encouragement of British art. His reputation otherwise has faded to such a degree that few except specialists would have much idea what his own art was like, but this show, though not large, makes handsome amends.

It has two particularly good ideas. For one thing, it is not set aside, a rather forbidding and funereal assemblage of marble busts, but integrated into the relevant period rooms of the collection, so that we may, for instance, examine a bust of James Watt right next to a painted portrait of him, and take advantage of all the background information and material with which the gallery now supplements its regular displays. For another, it has a completely admirable catalogue by Alex Potts which tells us all sorts of practical things we want to know: for instance, how did Chantrey go about transferring his observations from clay model to finished marble (it transpires that he made minimal use of assistants), and how much money was he paid for his work?

The sculptures themselves are surprisingly lively and characterful: as in the Lawrence show, one is amazed at how little concern the artist apparently felt, or was required to feel, for flattering his sitters. The grand Neo-Classical style of Canova is constantly humanized by reference to earlier local traditions, particularly that of Roubiliac, whom Chantrey specially admired and whose influence is very clear in, notably, the bust of Horne Tooke, author of *The Diversions of Purley*. But for believable likenesses of many more great and famous than that, from William IV and the young Queen Victoria down, Chantrey is definitely your man.

John Russell Taylor

left: Chantrey's Lady Louisa Russell; above: silver mounted decanter (1901) by Ashbee

Maggie Smith: moving closer to Bloomsbury

Maggie Smith is home again. After four years at Stratford, Ontario, during which seasons she collected more glowing reviews from visiting British drama critics than she'd ever enjoyed when resident in London, she is now back in the West End in the first new role she's created in a decade, the only new play she ever did in Canada and the only one she's ever brought back to England. It is of course Edna O'Brien's Woolf biography *Virginia*, which opens at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket next Thursday with its original Ontario cast under the direction of Robin Phillips, who has also just cut his ties to that Canadian Stratford.

Originally the plan was for *Virginia* to play the Haymarket in repertoire with the Peter Ustinov *Lear*; in the chaos surrounding the Phillips departure from Ontario (to be replaced by a gang-of-four local management who have themselves now been replaced without ever managing a single season) that plan was abandoned, and Miss Smith will now be giving her *Virginia* nightly until the end of April, though there will, in deference to the size of the role, be no matinées:

"I suppose in one way it is rather feeble. I mean people once managed to play *Hamlet* twice daily, but matinées are so awful now, you don't even seem to get a decent cup of tea, and I really don't think I could play a role like this eight times a week even for three months without cracking up; in Canada it was always in repertoire last summer."

But apart from the declining standards of matinée teas, England looks to Miss Smith, much as she left it: she has of course been back in the meantime, last year briefly to replace Diana Rigg in Stoppard's *Night and Day* before taking it on to Broadway, and then in-between Ontario seasons returning to the house she and her husband (the dramatist Beverley Cross) and the two sons of her marriage to Robert Stephens still share with her brother and sister-in-law in Surrey:

"We really are fed up with living out of trunks and meeting jetlagged children at airports, so I think I am home to stay, although that's something you can never really be sure of; I've just spent three months in Paris doing a film for James Ivory [of Jean Rhys's novel *Quartet*, in which she co-stars with Alan Bates] and after *Virginia* I'm off to do another Agatha Christie with Ustinov as Poirot, so I suppose I should really just get used to airports and stop moaning about them. But there is something rather lovely about being back in London: Beverley keeps leaning out of the window of the flat we've borrowed and saying 'Ooh look, taxis with lights on' because they didn't have many of those around Stratford, Ontario. All that does seem to have changed is that garage managers now all lock themselves up with their cash registers instead of standing by the pump; my windscreen wipers broke on the A3 last night and all I could find were men locked into little glass booths."

So what else is new? "Well, *Virginia* mainly; I've wanted to play her for about ten years, ever since I began reading the Quentin Bell biography while I was on location for *Travels with My Aunt*. The director of that film, George Cukor, thought we should do it as a movie but somehow there never seemed to be a script until last year, when Edna O'Brien sent her play to Ken Tynan and asked who she should get for it, and Ken told her to try me. I was on Broadway, failing gently in *Night and Day* which nobody seemed to understand; it wasn't exactly a failure, but as Coward once said it's not enough to have a hit on Broadway, you have to have a smash hit, and we certainly didn't have that. Anyway I'd already signed for another season with Robin in Ontario, so I sent him the script and he loved it, too, and that was how we came to do it there.

"In some ways it was easier out there; when you talked about Bloomsbury you had to conjure it up in the imagination instead of having it just around the corner, but there weren't so many people who knew what it was all about. Some of the audiences seemed to be expecting an episode of *The Virginian* and others thought they were getting Edward Albee, but they were very respectful. Here I think audiences may be tougher, because we're on *Virginia*'s home ground. Also, we no longer have the family of Stratford, Ontario, and that repertoire around us; we're just another commercial West End run, and that's always more terrifying.

"I really did love being in a permanent company out there, and of course I'd join a company here if the right sort of offer came along. It is just so much easier working with the same team of people from play to play, and for me Stratford, Ontario, was like starting out all over again. I'd come to the end of my first marriage, and was giving a terrible performance in *Private Lives*, and everyone was writing about Maggie Smith's mannerisms and there suddenly, thanks to Robin, was the chance to start out in a quite different country with a whole new team of people who weren't fed up with me, doing work that I was just never offered at home. It was a wonderful feeling and very exciting, and I thing it meant I was able to risk things as an actress, to go off in new directions. I was very lucky to get Stratford, Ontario, and Robin at that moment, but four years is a long time in any company however good or enjoyable. I couldn't have stayed there forever."

A two-time Oscar winner, Maggie Smith did manage also to keep a film career going in the winter breaks from Stratford, and as well as *Quartet* she will also be seen playing Thetis in *Clash of the Titans*, a special-effects epic written by her husband for MGM.

"There we all are, me and Larry and Claire Bloom and Sian Phillips on top of Mount Olympus trudging around in white robes and a lot of dry ice. I can't wait to see it."

But after the *Virginia* limited season and the Agatha Christie, what then?

"I really don't know. I'm fed up with reading about how I worry a lot and how neurotic I am about my career. I hardly worry at all. Panic, yes; worry, no. Beverley has had a wonderfully calming influence on me and my work; he's made my life possible and easy in a way it never used to be. But at the moment all I can really think about is *Virginia*: it's so rare that you get a major new role written for a woman in her forties that you feel you have to get it right. Otherwise it's straight from the doublet-and-hose into old crones like Volumnia, with, if you're lucky, a quick Lady Macbeth on the way. I only got to do Rosalind in the nick of time thanks to Ontario, and if I'd stayed here I think I'd still be waiting for the phone call offering Cleopatra.

"But *Virginia Woolf* is so difficult because she's so recent; people still recall what she looked and sounded like, and of course that was nothing at all like me. I'm not in the business of doing impressions, though; I'm trying to represent on stage what Edna O'Brien thinks was the essence of her, not funny look-alike make-up. What we've got is a very theatrical affair, and although in one sense I'd love to film *Virginia* I think it would need an awful lot of rewriting. Nor do I really think it would have made sense to take it to Broadway from Ontario; Americans are very tough on things they don't really know a lot about, and now that the police car sirens seem to come at you straight through the stage walls, it really is very difficult to make yourself heard in a serious play.

"In the end London is where you have to be with a play like this, and although we've all done it before in Canada this really is like a new term, a fresh start with clean notebooks and sharp pencils. One of the joys about having done so little in London these last five years is that people no longer seem to know quite what to expect of me; I'm away from the pressure of people's memories of me, and now that I am back I hope maybe to work not just on stage but also on television over here.

"That's something I've never really managed to crack; I failed my BBC audition years ago by setting fire to a studio. I was smoking nervously and I put the cigarette down on a piano and then, while I was at the microphone, out of the corner of my eye I saw it roll on to the felt bit, and soon there was a lot of smoke, so I thought it better just to leave quietly and I've not been back since.

"But as a result I've done lamentably few plays by living dramatists; indeed Beverley always amazes me by being a living dramatist. Somehow I always expect writers to be dead. Like Virginia."

Sheridan Morley

Photograph by Zoë Dominic

Book review

David O. Selznick's Hollywood
By Ronald Haver
(*Secker & Warburg*, £27.50)

Gone Hollywood
By Christopher Finch and Linda Rosenkranz
(*Weidenfeld & Nicolson*, £8.95)

David O. Selznick, the Hollywood producer who generated, among other films, *Gone With The Wind* and *King Kong*, is best remembered for his commercial nose, his brash extravagance, his single-mindedness, and a certain literary pretension. The same might be said of this lavish record of his career. It is not a biography of Selznick, nor is it an appraisal of his films. It is yet another history of Hollywood hung around a single figure.

Selznick is a fair person to have chosen for the purpose. Born into a show business family, he married Louis B. Mayer's daughter, worked for nearly all the major studios and, in 1935, started on a highly successful series of independent productions. With Darryl F. Zanuck and Irving Thalberg, he is one of the few Hollywood money men to elevate the role of producer to an art.

For Ronald Haver, Selznick is not simply a historic figure whose life would make an enjoyable read. The world of David Selznick has become the subject of a passion of dubious health. Haver's obsession with him became all-engrossing and this absurd book is a testament to that childhood craze which grew into something approaching a religious quest.

The empty and spiritually unattached Haver was first attracted towards the light of David O. Selznick when, during a long illness and confinement to bed, his mother encouraged him to read Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With The Wind*. Haver found it "the most engrossing piece of fiction I had ever read, light years ahead of the Hardy Boys and *Treasure Island*". He discovered that a film had been made and, in 1954, began what was to be a lifelong devotion. By the time he had completed his book he had watched the film 119 times.

After the first few screenings, Haver began to worry about how the film had been made. "I was curious to know why there were differences between the book and the film." His search led eventually to David O. Selznick in person, whom he hounded around Los Angeles, eavesdropping on him in cinemas, turning up at his home late at night, demanding that Selznick give him a job. When Selznick died, Haver worried the mogul's friends and family and compiled a file on the dead man which became this book.

It is a scrapbook of Selnickania, everything from newspaper cuttings about his marriages and divorce to the notes sent to him by actors. Among the many fine photographs of stars, sets and celebrities from old Hollywood there are such forgotten pieces of trivia as the copper-printed promotion leaflet from the *King Kong* launch and pictures showing the difference between title sequences of *Gone With The Wind*. It is buffery gone mad, a crazy, extravagant record of a compulsion to compile which landed, by chance, on the life of David Selznick. While applauding the industry and the standards of perfection, there is something about the sinister devotion of it all which obtrudes. Like a Selznick film, Haver's vulgar elaboration has got in the way of a good story.

More telling about the grit, rather than the gloss, of Hollywood is Linda Rosenkrantz and Christopher Finch's collection of facts and figures about life in the film colony. There are short essays on such rarely discussed subjects as pets (Mary Pickford had a wire haired terrier called Zorro who bit first and barked later), divorce (Esther Muir divorced Busby Berkeley for tearing her dress off at a dance), gifts (John Barrymore's friends sent him a cellophane wrapped naked girl for his 55th birthday), and children (Joan Crawford used to tie her adopted son to the four corners of his bed to stop him sucking his thumb).

Nicholas Wapshott

Philharmonia/Muti
Festival Hall

William Mann

Concert managers are often berated for their timorous programme-building, and these days they can blame the recession as well as the cowardliness of concertgoers in face of a programme containing even one modern work. Fortunately the Philharmonia Orchestra have Riccardo Muti as their musical director and he, like his compatriot Abbado of the LSO, has a conscience and an enthusiasm for the music of his and our time. On Sunday Muti conducted a whole programme of twentieth-century music, and the hall was full.

The main work was Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, admittedly something like a popular classic and almost 70 years old, although still as thrilling and enthralling as any music I know. He also had John Williams as soloist in the concerto, which was Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* (1940) whose slow movement became Hit Parade material a little while ago. The only relatively unfamiliar item was Lutoslawski's Funeral Music, which is short and approachable.

The concert did prove that a popular Sunday night symphony concert can be devised from music composed since 1912, and a nicely varied programme it was too. The Lutoslawski, much concerned with solo string textures, made an attractive shop window for the Philharmonia's string department and was deployed by Muti with proper involvement in its two inner movements, and grave lucidity in the canons which frame them.

Rodrigo's guitar concerto, so winsome and spirited on first acquaintance, turns out later to consist, in its first two movements, of one cliché after another, cleverly but not inexhaustibly strung together. It can still give pleasure when deftly turned, as it was in this performance by John Williams, who must long ago have seen through its superficial glamour; and what does not stale is the astute orchestral writing to contrast and converse with the solo instrument.

We were waiting to discover what Muti would make of *The Rite of Spring*. Anyone who expected the tactics of a bull at a gate was mistaken. He began with an almost impressionistic flexibility, and approached much of the savage or impetuous music cautiously, as if still admiring the craftsmanship and the marvellous sonorities. The "Springtime Rounds" section and the beginning of the second part benefited from his care, and both halves ended with some gusto; but much of the performance was disappointingly tame.

Alfred Brendel
Festival Hall

Joan Chissell

It is always something of a surprise that anyone as much a specialist in the Viennese classics as Alfred Brendel should also be so penetrating and powerful a champion of Liszt. His piano recital in the South Bank series on Sunday afternoon was divided between those two different schools, and again he emerged a stylist in both.

For sheer magic of sonority there was nothing in the whole programme more ravishing, in its liquid, shimmering delicacy, than Liszt's "Les jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este" played as encore. It brought just the right relaxation after a reading of the B minor sonata of exhausting (for the listener) cumulative intensity and might. Pregnant as was the opening, Mr Brendel still kept much in reserve for the dramatic climax of the first section, so that the Andante sostenuto, when it came, was like a retreat into a holy world. Rarely can I recall a more beautifully timed or noble unfolding of this slow section of the work. If the launching of the fugue seemed marginally too fast for complete clarity of articulation, this last section culminated in a breathtaking burst of *fuocoso* octaves before the great moment of B major triumph—and a coda like a benediction. Liszt's "Vallée d'Obermann" preceded the sonata, its sombre main theme all the more cutting for the steely edge Mr Brendel brings to his cantabile when he feels it necessary.

Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert shared the first half, starting with the C major sonata (possibly his last) written by Haydn on his second visit to London. Its drolleries and quirks were dispatched with delightful dry humour before Mr Brendel moved on, almost making you think he had changed his instrument, to the lyricism of Beethoven's Andante in F (nicknamed "favori"). From Schubert he chose not one of the maturer A minor sonatas more frequently heard from him, but the earliest in that key, D537, respecting its youth and innocence while at the same time achieving expressive miracles through artful savouring of chromaticism and colouring of texture—the latter nowhere more winningly than in the allegretto.

RSC/Medici Quartet
Wigmore Hall

Paul Griffiths

I must admit to having had some misgivings about the prospect of Sunday evening's "Intimate Voices" programme, designed to illuminate Janacek's second string quartet with dramatized readings from memoirs, correspondence and other documentary sources. It looks like the sort of thing that would be much better done on radio. And though the Janacek Quartet was written as a sequence of "Intimate Letters" (its sub-title) to Kamila Stosslova, the young object of his elderly passion, though it is thus an intensely autobiographic work, that fact does not make it at all dependent on any knowledge of the circumstances. One might well argue, rather, that Janacek so poured everything into his music that the documents can add nothing.

Indeed, that does seem to have been the case, but curiously it did not destroy the purpose of this programme, which was able to show therefore just how internal, far from reality and wholly musical Janacek's feelings for Kamila were. She barely emerged as a personality despite all that was said: one merely got the impression of a young wife and mother perhaps embarrassed and perhaps amused by the old gentleman's attentions. For Janacek, so it seemed, she was truly not a person but the muse he needed to discover within himself the great works of his last dozen years. And if nothing else, his quite appalling treatment of his wife, who emerged as the real heroine of the evening, might indicate how self-centred his motivation was.

The picture of impatient, impetuous, self-willed genius was well presented in Richard Pasco's readings, while Barbara Leigh-Hunt nicely counterpointed his servant's recollections, sometime guileless, sometimes wry. The programme was compiled by Patrick Lambert and directed by John Caird.

Musically, we were in the hands of the Medici Quartet, who provided illustrations in the mostly documentary first half and then, after the interval, gave us the real Janacek in a complete performance of his quartet. There was some slightly wild tuning in the first movement, but the rest had the right mix of strenuousness and simplicity, the right keen edge of personal anguish sounding through the collective jollities of folk dance.

The South Bank Show
LWT

Joan Bakewell

Children and lovers say what they feel and strive to express what they are feeling. In *Sons and Lovers*, Paul and Gertrude Morel are doing the former with some success. In *The Trespasser*, Siegmund and Helena do the latter with considerable strain.

Translating the intense, verbose world of D. H. Lawrence to the screen is best done when the work is full of events, even the modest domestic events of the Morel household. *The Trespasser*, an independent film commissioned by *The South Bank Show*, is about a love affair, taken from an early short story about a violinist who runs away with a pupil for a turbulent five days and, on return to his family, commits suicide.

Its external events are the outward show of the story's true power, which is the inward turmoil of lovers and the complex interplay of their passion. In adapting the story Hugh Stoddart has made effective use of "voice over" technique, the whispering of inner thoughts, while Colin Gregg, the director, creates a lyrical beauty of figures in costume moving within a summer landscape.

But it is not altogether successful. While Mr Lawrence's observation is perceptive, his writing is high key, florid, overblown. Can I really have heard "Don't steer me on to the rocks of your platitudes" and actors striving bravely with . . . "the opium of her lips," or "the thrill of of his gaze?"

Lovers certainly use highly charged language but observed on film from the outside, as with the scenes of their actual love making, the experience is excluding, occasionally ridiculous. One was grateful for the silences, which were, in fact, full of rich sounds—the squeak of shoes, the roar of the sea on pebbles, insects, the moans of love. Many such sequences were beautiful and moving.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

Indian Classical Music
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Yasmin Hosain

The string trio playing to a meagre audience of Asian families and hirsute orientalists consisted of Manesh Chandra (*sitar*), Ken Zuckerman (*sarod*) and Amrit Gajjar (dilruba). While the tanbours droned discreetly in the background, the accompanist Indra Dhanu beat the tablas with alarming enthusiasm. This and the introductory eulogy placed a heavy burden on the frail shoulders of the American Zuckerman.

He is a disciple of Ali Akbar Khan, and teaches at the Basel Music Academy. The sarod has similarities with cello and guitar; seven of the 25 strings are played, the rest provide sympathetic vibrations, and there are no frets. Zuckerman opened with *Raag Durga* in teental (16 beats). The dignified alaap (introduction) was played with quiet confidence reminiscent of the master. The harmony of the lower scale was lost as he progressed to the higher notes and the gat became too metallic as he struggled to keep time with the racing tabla. A green room reprimand was evident in the chastened and improved performance of the teenage percussionist after the interval.

The sitar solo in *Ragini Bhimplasi* was presented in the traditional style by *Maneshji*: alaap, jor and jhala. With precise deliberation he evoked the gentle cajoling so typical of this romantic ragini. The wadi (main note) was established with pleasing clarity. In India *Bhimplasi* is a great favourite, and to play it unbridled by the rhythmic restraints of the tabla is risking sentimentality. Maneshji performed with perfect control.

The dilruba is a variation of the sarangi, and easier to play since it has frets; it has four main strings, and is played with a bow. The rich plaintive sound of this rarely-used instrument is almost as expressive as the human voice. Amrit Gajjar, who was trained in Uganda, is a versatile and sensitive performer. He presented and developed the *Jaijavanti* in the format of a khayal (vocal composition), starting with the complete octave, and then halting on each note with insistent lyricism. Some faltering and false tones marred the sequence as tabla and dilruba attempted to synchronize in the drut (fast tempo), but it was a loving and touching portrayal of the longing desire embodied in *Jaijavanti*.

Football

Allison takes his leave of Palace again

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Another twist in the bizarre affairs of Crystal Palace Football Club came about last night when the new chief shareholder, Ron Noades, announced that Malcolm Allison's eight week period as manager would be ending. Dario Gradi, manager of Wimbledon, whose chairman is still Mr Noades, has taken over with a three-and-a-half-year contract.

Although nothing that happens at Selhurst Park now comes as a surprise, it was not expected that Mr Allison's second term as Palace manager would end quite so soon after Mr Noades took over the shares of the chairman, Raymond Bloye, only on Friday. Mr Bloye is still in office and said: "I don't know anything about it. I knew that Mr Noades was speaking to him to talk things over." The secretary Alan Leather made a short comment that spoke volumes: "We have had quite a year here in the last week."

Mr Allison, who is to receive compensation equivalent to his salary until the end of the season, was Palace's 15th manager since the war. He first joined them in 1973 but left by "mutual agreement" after they dropped from the first to third division in three seasons. He rejoined them in December of last year and was unable to lift the team from the relegation area of the first division. His departure yesterday was again said to be "by mutual consent".

Richard Faulkner, a spokesman for the consortium led by Mr Noades, said the two men decided they could not work together "because of the firm views each expressed as to how management control should be exercised". He added: "Mr Noades said he had the highest regard for Mr Allison's ability as a coach and he felt sure he would soon obtain a position where his considerable skills could be put to best effect.

"Dario Gradi has in his managerial career an outstanding record of success in encouraging and developing the potential of young players. His appointment marks the beginning of a long term youth policy which will establish Crystal Palace as one of the leading first division clubs."

A considerable section of Palace's supporters have a high regard for Mr Allison but Mr Noades said he had met their representatives and thought they would "get along extremely well". However, supporters may conclude that talk of "long term" policy may not give sufficient regard to the immediate crisis. Characteristically, Mr Allison favoured buying players as his means of avoiding relegation.

Mr Allison's future was open to speculation from the moment the consortium led by Mr Noades finally won control with a reported £600,000 bid for Mr Bloye's 75 per cent holding. Earlier rumours that the manager was at risk so annoyed Mr Bloye that he had second thoughts about the deal. The "working arrangement" was completed on Friday and Mr Noades began work yesterday.

Mr Gradi, who is 39, played football for Tooting and Sutton and was an amateur international. He became coach at Chelsea and Derby County before moving to Wimbledon as coach. Three years ago he was appointed as manager. The team won promotion to the third division in 1979 but were relegated last season. They are currently in the middle of the fourth division and for the time being the assistant manager, David Bassett, will be in charge.

The appointment came as no surprise to Mr Gradi who said Wimbledon had played their FA Cup tie on Saturday. He said: "I am not frightened of the job. In fact, the more I think about it the more it excites me." His first job will be to persuade six unsettled players to reconsider.

Dario Gradi: will give youth its fling as Palace manager

A haunting element of uncertainty persists

By Norman Fox

Optimism among the outsiders gathered no pace from yesterday's draw for the fifth round of the FA Cup. Enfield, the last remaining non-League team, will have to go to Middlesbrough if they win their replay against Barnsley at White Hart Lane tomorrow, and Peterborough, of the fourth division, are at home to the rapidly improving Manchester City side who sauntered past Norwich City by 6—0 on Saturday.

The matches on February 14 will continue the process of self-inflicted elimination by first division clubs, but it could have been more masochistic. This time there are two ties of all first division cast: Tottenham Hotspur v Coventry City and Southampton v Everton. Clearly the second is the feature of the round. Southampton are gaining confidence after a period of disappointments and Everton have already beaten Arsenal, the runners-up last year, and Liverpool, early co-favourites for this 100th season of the Cup.

Ipswich Town and Nottingham Forest are now considered almost equal favourites, but it is Ipswich who have the more testing task if they overcome Shrewsbury in today's replay. A match against the third division's leaders, Charlton Athletic, offers danger and were it to have been at Charlton's ground that threat would have been much greater.

Forest displayed in their tie with Manchester United on Saturday the determination to take one prize from their otherwise comparatively unrewarding season which makes them a formidable threat to all. A home game against the winners of a replay between Bristol City and Carlisle should not deprive them of further progress.

With only two of the first division's leading six clubs still competing, it was inevitable that the draw would not be replete with compelling possibilities, but at least it retains an element of uncertainty about the composition of the last four if less about the last eight. It requires no special daring to put forward the names of Manchester City, Tottenham Hotspur, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Nottingham Forest, Ipswich Town, Southampton, Middlesbrough and Newcastle for the sixth round. Thus only one non first division club, Newcastle, would retain an interest, destroying thoughts that this could be a season for the less illustrious.

The centre of controversy in the suggested list of winners may concern Southampton's ability to stop Everton's powerful stride. Southampton lost at Goodison Park in October by 2—1, but now that Keegan is fitter the situation has changed. They have lost only two games at home this season and, indeed, it is noticeable that seven of the predicted last eight will play on their own grounds.

Tottenham will have the two fold advantage of being at home and meeting a Coventry team they beat 4—1 in October.

Fifth round draw
Middlesbrough v Barnsley or Enfield
Newcastle v Leicester or Exeter
Nottingham F v Carlisle or Bristol C
Peterborough v Manchester City
Shrewsbury or Ipswich v Charlton
Southampton v Everton
Tottenham Hotspur v Coventry
Watford or Wolves v Wrexham

Board support for Brown

Sir Arthur South, Norwich City's chairman, has given a vote of confidence to Ken Brown, the manager, after the club's biggest FA Cup defeat, 6—0 at Manchester City, for more than 50 years. Sir Arthur said: "It was a humiliating defeat for us, an absolutely miserable day.

"After it was all over, I spoke to Ken and tried to cheer him up because he was feeling more depressed than I was. Ken Brown and Mel Machin have the board's fullest support, just as they did when we appointed them to the job in succession to John Bond. We have the utmost confidence in both of them".

Manchester City will plead that the sending-off of Reid, against Middlesbrough on January 17, should be considered sufficient punishment. When he appears before an FA Cup disciplinary commission in London today. He makes a personal appearance, having taken his total points beyond 20. City plan to use a television film of the incident with Hodgson in an attempt to have Reid back in their side at Villa Park on Saturday.

Martin O'Neill's week's suspension is over but he is not training with Nottingham Forest. Forest's manager, Brian Clough, said: "He's no longer suspended but I've told him to stay at home until I call him".

Mr Clough also revealed that there has been only one inquiry about the Northern Ireland international. "Wolves are the only club who have contacted me and they just asked about the price", he said. In spite of the admission by Manchester United's goalkeeper, Gary Bailey, that Forest's winner was an own goal, Mr Clough said that he is crediting it to Trevor Francis.

Today's fixtures

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated.
LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Coventry City v West Ham United.
FA CUP: Fourth round replays: Ipswich Town v Shrewsbury Town. Wolverhampton Wanderers v Watford.
THIRD DIVISION: Burnley v Portsmouth.
OTHER MATCHES: Arsenal v FC Cologne; Oxford City v Bournemouth.
FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Manchester City v Newcastle (7.0).
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Southern division: Aylesbury v Salisbury.
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Southport v Netherfield.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: First division: Bishop's Stortford v Metropolitan Police; Epsom and Ewell v Wembley; Kingstonian v Farnborough Town; Maidenhead United v Chesham United; St Albans City v Clapton.
RUGBY UNION: Hospitals Cup: Second round: St Bartholomew's v Royal Free; Westminster v UCH.
RUGBY LEAGUE: First division: Oldham v Leeds.

Yesterday's results

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Southern division: Poole 1, Addlestone and Weybridge 0.
FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Derby County 1, Manchester United 1.
OTHER MATCH: Aston Villa 4, Rapid Vienna 0.

Cricket

England make things difficult for themselves

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Point-à-Pierre, Jan 26

England won the opening match of their tour here this evening by by 190 runs in spite of having set the morning aside for what amounted to an open-wicket practice. The President's XI, needing 372 to win in four hours, a task that would have been beyond the pick of the world's batsmen, were bowled out for 181 with 20 minutes and a minimum of four overs remaining.

A victory is so much the best tonic with which to start a four that to me the way England conducted their morning's cricket made little sense. For batting on for so long and playing with such caution the usual reasons were given—the ball was difficult to get away, the bowling negative, time before the first Test match is short (which it is, although no shorter than usual) and the batsmen need to bat. Happily, with Miller and Willey sharing the wickets, England won—as much, though, by chance as design. Am I, I wonder, looking a gift horse in the mouth?

Just how easily England could have won was shown as soon as Miller came on, followed within an over or two by Willey. From 37 for no wicket the score became 56 for two and then 95 for five. Against the faster bowling, Gabriel Austin and Timur Mohammed did much as they pleased, Timur hitting the ball through the covers quite beautifully.

In the last year or two Timur has scored a great many runs for Suffolk. In 1979 alone he made 1,167 at an average of 83. But today he too was confounded by spin. Although the ball was turning only slowly it did enough to reveal a West Indian weakness, if not of their best Test batsmen.

As so often happens at the start of a tour, Boycott's occupation of the crease, which seemed his prime objective, was the cause of some frustration. Having batted well in the first innings, and again yesterday when starting off the second innings with Rose, he took 95 minutes to add another 12 this morning. In the end even he must have felt that this was overdoing things, to judge from the way he suddenly gave Harper the charge and was bowled. He had gone some way by then to playing himself out of form—and he still had no individual hundred to show for it.

In his two innings here, each of 87, Boycott batted altogether for 8 hours, 35 minutes, for much of that time against two teenaged spinners. We had a taste today, from Marshall, of what to expect in the Test matches. Bowling fast and taking a long time about his overs he was hard to score from. Partly because his line, intentionally or otherwise, was often well clear of the off stump. It was in reaching for a wide one that Willey was caught at the wicket.

Botham made 33 in just over an hour, having decided by then against a challenging declaration he held himself back until a half volley came along, whereupon he let fly. A straight six of his off Daniel was worth seeing. At 180 he drove Alleyne to deep mid off. Boycott departed soon afterwards, his return greeted with a deafening silence. When, at lunch, Botham closed the innings, England had made 80 in the two hours of the morning and the president's eleven had bowled 31 overs. If you want a stuffy observation, it would never have done in the old days.

Clyde Walcott, the West Indies cricket selector, has warned that his team cannot afford to be over-confident against England in the Test series, which starts in the Caribbean next month, Reuter reports. Mr Walcott, a former Test batsman, who was manager of the West Indies side in Britain last year, gave his warning as England opened their three-month tour here.

Mr Walcott expects the West Indian batting to be better on Caribbean pitches than in England and Pakistan recently, but said: "We cannot be complacent against England for I think their batsmen will also get some runs." Peter Short, a member of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control, said that as favourites the West Indies would be under pressure from home crowds to do well, but believed they had the talent to win the series.

During recent months there has been hectic activity to get the grounds and other facilities in top shape for the five-matches and the WICBC estimate that the tour cost will be about $1.33m.

Scorecard

ENGLAND: First innings, 463 for 6 dec (D. I. Gower 187, M. W. Gatting 94, G. Boycott 87, R. Harper 5 for 142)

Second innings

G. Boycott, b Harper	87
B. C. Rose, b Marshall	43
†D. L. Bairstow, l-b-w, b Marshall	0
P. Willey, c Williams, b Marshall	10
*I. T. Botham, c Payne, b Alleyne	33
R. O. Butcher, not out	20
G. Miller, not out	4
Extras	11
Total (5 wkts dec)	208

M. W. Gatting, D. I. Gower, C. M. Old and G. R. Dilley did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1—114, 2—114, 3—134, 4—170, 5—187.

PRESIDENT'S XI: First innings, 330 (J. Dujon 105 not out; I. T. Botham 5 for 43).

Second innings

R. Austin, b Miller	19
R. Gabriel, c Bairstow, b Miller	22
*Timur Mohammad, b Willey	35
E. Mattis, b Miller	46
E. Payne, b Miller	1
J. Dujon, c Botham, b Willey	1
M. Marshall, run out	31
S. Williams, c Gatting, b Willey	4
R. Harper, l-b-w, b Miller	0
H. Alleyne, l-b-w, b Miller	6
A. Daniel, not out	0
Extras	16
Total	181

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—37, 2—56, 3—93, 4—94, 5—95, 6—159, 7—170, 8—171, 9—175, 10—181.
BOWLING: Dilley, 10—3—18—0; Botham, 4—0—21—0; Miller, 26.2—11—70—6; Old, 4—0—27—0; Willey, 17—6—29—3.

Odds are against an Australian victory as the artful Doshi poses problems

From Dilip Rao
Adelaide, Jan 26

There was a keen tussle for the initiative today at the Adelaide Oval in the second Test between Australia and India. With their fast bowlers reasserting themselves, Australia seized a commanding lead of 109 but in the second innings, their batsmen had to fight for runs against the artful Dilip Doshi. The day closed with Australia, six second innings wickets remaining, in the lead by 274 runs.

After batting for 250 minutes, they scored just 165 for four in their second innings, with only two batsmen achieving any fluency. They were Chappell, who made 52 after being missed at 36, and Hughes, who remained unbeaten with 53, which he made skilfully but not in the cavalier fashion of his double-century in the first innings.

Strongly placed as Australia are, it will be difficult for them to win in the one remaining day. If they are to force the issue, Hughes would have to cut loose with a vengeance and then the Australian pace attack would have to spread quick devastation. The pitch will prevent either requirement from being fulfilled. It has lost its earlier pace and the ball is turning. Hughes, therefore, would have to continue playing with a certain amount of discipline. And to be bowled out by the fast bowlers in less than a day on a pitch which no longer contains a great deal of bounce, India would have to bat very badly—not that they are incapable of doing so these days.

This morning, when India resumed their first innings from the happy position of 371 for five, Lillee made the breakthrough in less than 18 minutes and the remaining wickets tumbled for just 34 runs. To India's advantage, every batsman, excepting Kapil Dev, spent some time at the wicket, even if he did not make an appreciable contribution.

Of the further 48 runs India acquired, 24 came from Patil, who was eighth out, at 399, for 174, the top score by an Indian in Test matches against Australia. Chappell paid Patil a tribute by writing in his column that he considered him as powerful a striker of the ball as Vivian Richards, Gordon Greenidge or Clive Lloyd. Even in the days when India's opening attack was a music hall joke, they always had somebody to bowl a couple of overs with seam up before Bedi and Chandrasekhar licked their spinning fingers. But today, Doshi was summoned to bowl the second over of Australia's second innings and Yadav, the off-spinner, joined him at the other end after Kapil Dev had bowled only two overs.

Doshi made short work of Wood and would have dismissed Dyson too in the same spell, had he not dropped an overhead return catch. Chappell's escape was off Yadav, with Patil failing to hold a lofted drive to midwicket. Doshi's masterpiece was his dismissal of Chappell, with the first ball of a fresh spell after tea.

Quickly reading Chappell's intention of coming down the pitch at him, Doshi pushed the ball through short and Chappell was some way from its pitch as it spun away for Kirmani to stump him. Then Border was kept in subjugation until he was forced into rushing out for a reckless stroke with which he made no contact.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 528 (K. J. Hughes 213, G. M. Wood 125, A. R. Border 57)

G. M. Wood, c Patil, b Doshi	3
J. Dyson, l-b-w, b Ghavri	28
*G. S. Chappell, st Kirmani, b Doshi	52
K. J. Hughes, not out	53
A. R. Border, b Doshi	7
K. D. Walters, not out	13
Extras (b 2, l-b 5, n-b 2)	9
Total (4 wkts)	165

†R. W. Marsh, B. Yardley, D. K. Lillee, R. M. Hogg and L. S. Pascoe to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1—3, 2—71, 3—118, 4—138.
BOWLING (to date): Kapil Dev, 8—2—30—0; Doshi, 28—10—27—3; Yadav, 23—6—62—0; Ghavri, 11—2—37—1.

INDIA: First innings

*S. Gavaskar, b Pascoe	23
S. Yadav, c Chappell, b Yardley	16
G. Viswanath, l-b-w, b Hogg	3
D. Vengsarkar, l-b-w, b Lillee	2
C. Chauhan, c Marsh, b Lillee	97
S. Patil, l-b-w, b Hogg	174
Y. Sharma, c Marsh, b Lillee	47
Kapil Dev, c Border, b Lillee	2
†Syed Kirmani, b Pascoe	6
K. Ghavri, c Wood, b Yardley	3
Dilip Doshi, not out	6
Extras (b 11, l-b 10, n-b 17, w 2)	40
Total	419

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—77, 2—112, 3—115, 4—130, 5—238, 6—385, 7—393, 8—399, 9—409, 10—419.
BOWLING: Lillee, 34—10—80—4; Hogg, 28—6—100—2; Pascoe, 17—2—62—2; Yardley, 44.4—16—90—2; G. Chappell, 6—2—14—0; Walters, 3—0—31—0; Border, 4—1—11—0; Hughes, 1—0—1—0.

PORT ELIZABETH: Currie Cup: Eastern Province 54 (V. van der Bijl 4 for 8) and 69 (M. Procter 4 for 33); Natal 148 for 6 dec. Natal won by an innings and 45 runs.
JOHANNESBURG: Northern Transvaal 99 (A. Kourie 6 for 34, C. Rice 4 for 30) and 113 (C. Rice 4 for 27); Transvaal 179 for 9 dec (K. McKenzie 53) and 34 for 2. Transvaal won by eight wickets.
SRI LANKA: Southern Districts 163-9 (S. Tonnies 4-8); Club Cricket Conference 140. Southern Districts won by 23 runs.
GEORGETOWN: Shell Shield: Guyana 459 and 123 for 3; Trinidad and Tobago 338 for 9 dec. Match abandoned, rain.

New Zealand limit NSW to draw

Sydney, Jan 26.—The New Zealanders used limited-over tactics to force a draw against New South Wales on the final day of a three-day match here today. The touring team were dismissed for 166 in their second innings and New South Wales, set 141 to win in even time, were 130 for eight at the close.

New South Wales changed their batting order in a bid to win, but the plan backfired as the New Zealanders bowled short of a length to a defensive field on a slow, easy-paced pitch. The state team were 97 for three at one stage, but five wickets crashed for 25 and they settled for a draw.

Geoff Howarth, the New Zealand captain said: "I thought we had lost, but New South Wales played badly. We were too relaxed ourselves, though, and did not do well, particularly in our second innings."

The touring team, 26 behind on first innings, resumed at 37 for two today and were indebted to Paul McEwan, who was top scorer with 87, and John Wright, who made 40. Off-spinner Graeme Beard took five for 37—his match haul was 10 for 95—as the New Zealanders' last eight wickets tumbled for 54.

SCORES: New Zealand 202 and 166 (McEwan 87, Board 5-37); New South Wales 228 for 2 dec and 130 for 8.—Reuter.

Bound for Zimbabwe

Leicestershire County Cricket Club have arranged a three week pre-season tour to Zimbabwe. The tour will last from March 5 to 26 and a party of 14 will include two guest players

Rugby Union

Some cheer for the cup and plum draw for the holders

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

The president of the Rugby Football Union, John Kendall-Carpenter, made it abundantly clear in London yesterday that a proposal in the Burgess report for the ending of the John Player Cup competition would get short shrift when discussed at full committee level. "There will be no rushing of fences," he said, "and nothing is likely to alter overnight. I feel the John Player Cup is an invaluable adjunct to our game. The competition has taken off, and is now a vital part of the season. We would be foolhardy to abandon it, and we must not allow that to happen."

The full text of a second report produced by the playing sub-committee, chaired by Lancashire's John Burgess, will be issued later this week. It should be found to contain proposals for national leagues, an expanded divisional championship, and a county championship, which is eligible only to players with English qualifications who are not members of clubs participating in the leagues.

David Way, special events manager of John Player and Son, whose rugby union sponsorship put almost £70,000 into the English game this season, said he would be "very disappointed" if the cup were to be abandoned. "But we would hope to remain connected with the RFU, perhaps with sponsorship of the proposed leagues."

The cup, now firmly established as part of the scene, is so popular with clubs of all shapes and sizes that any proposal to do away with it must put the cat among the pigeons. But one can understand why it was made by the Burgess committee. This was charged to produce a report for the restructuring of the English game and for improving its quality, specifically at the highest level. The cup produces all sorts of welcome benefits but it does little to enhance the quality of the rugby played.

An evident dichotomy on this particular issue between the president of the RFU and his playing sub-committee overshadowed the fourth round draw, which produced a plum home tie for the holders, Leicester, against Bristol on February 28. Leicester, who seek to set a record by winning the trophy for the third successive year, had a narrow win, 9—6, at Bristol in December. Bristol were runners-up to Coventry in 1973.

The four surviving London clubs emerged from the draw with two of them, London Irish and London Scottish, enjoying home advantage against Gloucester and Orrell respectively, and the others, Metropolitan Police and Rosslyn Park, due to play each other at Imber Court. The London Scottish-Orrell game will be a reprise of a semi-final between those two sides in 1974, when Scottish won, 12—3, in Lancashire.

There will be an interesting meeting at Blundellsands between Waterloo and Gosforth, runners-up and winners, in the final of 1977 and currently standing equal at the head of the northern merit table with unblemished records. It so happens that they are due to play each other in a merit game at Gosforth on February 14. Of the remaining Midlands clubs, Coventry travel again—this time to Sale—and Moseley go down to Devon to play Exeter. Nottingham, who squashed Camp Hill's aspirations in the last round, will be at home to Bath.

Fourth round
Exeter v Moseley
Leicester v Bristol
London Irish v Gloucester
London Scottish v Orrell
Met Police v Rosslyn Park
Nottingham v Bath
Sale v Coventry
Waterloo v Gosforth
To be played on February 28.

Scotland need to tighten their defences

By Peter West

Tom Smith, the Gala lock and basketball international to whom the Scottish selectors surely had hoped to award a first cap for the recent game in Paris, remains out of contention as they meet this evening to choose their side to play Wales at Murrayfield on Saturday week. Ian Milne, the tight head prop, who withdrew from the French match, did not risk playing for Heriot's last Saturday but is confident of starting again next weekend.

Milne has missed quite a lot of rugby this season and the selectors may therefore decide to retain Norrie Rowan on the tight head side. They should be less worried by some minor injuries which kept the scrumhalf, Roy Laidlaw, and the flanker, Jim Calder, out of action for their clubs over the weekend. Nor should they be disturbed by an injury that took the loose head prop, Jim Aitken, off the field for part of Gala's game at Middlesbrough.

Smith has resumed training, but he has not played since leaving the scene with a knee strain at the end of the national trial on January 3. But there should be no doubt that England will make his acquaintance in the Calcutta Cup match at Twickenham on February 21.

Bill Cuthbertson (Kilmarnock), who was capped against Ireland last season, may be considered as a strong worker at lock, but it seems likely that the selectors will keep their front five together and deliberate longer on whether they can improve the balance at loose forward.

The form of Alex Brewster (Stewart's Melville) was re-examined last Saturday, as was that of David Leslie who, along with Dickson, got a brace of tries for Gala under the surveillance of the national coach, Jim Telfer. If the selectors want a flanker for the nitty gritty jobs then Mike Biggar certainly must remain in contention.

American football

The night the Eagles played like sparrows

By Stuart Jones

There was a corner of Leicester Square the other night that was, for three hours at least, American. Cowboy hats, football shirts, cheerleaders, hot dogs and whooping cries were the scene as the Odeon cinema audience prepared for the Super Bowl, the United States version of the FA Cup Final, to be beamed live from New Orleans.

Supporters of the Oakland Raiders, dressed in black, and the Philadelphia Eagles, in green, mingled like shadows in a forest. The numbers, and the pundits, favoured the Eagles but the Raiders, underdogs throughout the play-offs, became only the second "wild card" side to win the Vince Lombardi Trophy by 27-10.

The Eagles, as one prophetic banner proclaimed, were plucked. They could do nothing right except win the toss. The traditional golden coin was flipped by Marie Lombardi, the widow of the legendary coach. When asked what he might think about her performing the task, she replied: "He's up there saying 'What on earth is that woman doing out there'."

In contrast to Wembley, there was no whistling during the national anthem here. The Star-Spangled Banner bore added poignancy as the announcer welcomed back the former hostages and a special cheer greeted another banner which read "US hostages 52, Iran 0". Over 97 miles of yellow ribbon were draped around the awesome Louisiana Superdome.

The contest was to be decided by the two respective quarter-backs. A chubby-faced veteran of 10 years, Plunkett, had thrown only 15 passes in two years before he took over from the injured Pastorini last October. He has since done little wrong and success brought a faint trace of a smile to his lips.

On the face of Jaworski, of Philadelphia, there was nothing but a faint trace of a beard. The top-ranked passer during the regular season, he threw wildly from the start and was intercepted three times in a record 38 attempts. Too often he was given too little cover by the mountains of men forming his defence.

No Eagle had flown in the face of such pressure before whereas the Raiders had 13 men with Super Bowl experience. In the air-conditioned atmosphere and in front of an estimated audience of 100 million, Philadelphia's nerves withered away and by the interval the glittering prize, as well as a bonus of $53,000, was beyond their range.

Characters emerged as the night wore on. For Philadelphia, Smith played with a broken jaw. A dentist stood by in case of emergency and as Smith could breathe only through his nose, he had to take frequent rests. Franklin, their kicker, prefers to perform barefoot and scored four points with a field goal and a conversion.

For Oakland, Lester "The Molester" Hayes lived up to his nickname in fearful fashion; but even he was dwarfed by a colleague, Matuszak, who stands 6ft 8in and weighs 20st. Later this year he is to take the leading role in a film called The Caveman.

Oakland broke two Super Bowl records on their triumphant way. Martin collected all three interceptions and Plunkett threw the longest touchdown pass, 80 yards to King, as the Raiders took a 14—0 lead in the first quarter. Branch also equalized the record by catching Plunkett's other two scoring passes.

Philadelphia, Eastern division champions of the National League, who had earlier beaten Oakland 10—7, broke only their hearts and those of their followers. Long before the end, those arrayed in green walked away from inevitable defeat and out into the reality of a cold London dawn.

Squash rackets

Khan cousins prove they are the genuine article

By Rex Bellamy
Squash Rackets Correspondent

Two Pakistani cousins advanced to the last eight of the British under-23 championship at Wembley yesterday. The term "cousin" is rather loosely used over there but these lads are the genuine article: because Zahir Husain Khan is the son of Jahangir Khan's father's wife's sister. Jahangir's father, Roshan, is one of four men (all Khans) who won what were then unofficial world championships at both versions of squash—the international "soft-ball" game and North American "hardball".

Facially Jahangir resembles his late brother Torsam. His playing method is more like Roshan's. Jahangir, aged 17, is top seed at Wembley. Playing him must be awful. Watching him is a joy and an education. There is nothing flashy about his squash but his wondrous talent is slickly tailored to fit every tactical shift. Like all players with the stuff of greatness in them he commands both extremes of pace and uses them to exploit even the hint of a loose shot. When he whips his wrist for a heavily-cut kill, there are succeeding images of an explosion and a burial.

Jahangir beat Christy Willstrop, also 17, who is some way behind him in terms of physical and competitive maturity. Willstrop played a fine match by his own standards but not by Jahangir's. They were on court less than 17 hours after Willstrop had admirably come back from two games down to beat a quick little New Zealander, Dean Lovett, whose physical resources were not quite equal to the stress Willstrop put on them.

Husain's win over the fourth seed, Ricki Hill, was similar to the Willstrop-Lovett match in that the effort of winning two games drew the sting from the eventual loser. Husain and Hill both coach in Germany and play with the discretion and soundness "customer's squash" demands. A tough, much-tangled second game asked a lot of their composure and energy. Hill won it but he was feeling "a bit crook" anyway and after that game was mostly on his heels. The more lightly-built Husain looked capable of playing fluently for 10 games, never mind five.

Three of Willstrop's stable-mates at Walton Hall, near Wakefield, justified their seedings. Gawain Briars and Stephen Batemen briefly had some bother with two Swedes, Peter Bostrom and the 6ft 5in Anders Bergsten.

Ashley Naylor was less seriously threatened by Sean Flynn, of Aylesbury, who coaches in Paris. Flynn had won two tough matches in spite of the fact that a small bone in the back of his racket hand is broken.

David Pearson kept the seeded Reggie Holmes on the rack for three games and it took Ross Norman a while to sort out Jamshed Gul's foxy short game. There was much delightful squash yesterday—and many amusing vignettes in the wings, between games, as the players slumped in chair and towelled down while tactical advisers hovered solemnly over them like prospective coroners.

RESULTS: Third round: S. Bateman (GB) beat A. Bergsten (Sweden), 9—1, 10—8, 9—3; Zahir Husain Khan (Pakistan) beat R. Hill (Australia), 9—2, 8—10, 9—6, 9—0; Jahangir Khan (Pakistan) beat C. Willstrop (GB), 9—5, 9—1, 9—0; R. Holmes (SA) beat D. Pearson (GB), 9—7, 6—9, 10—9, 9—1.

Snooker

Griffiths wants lions' share of the banquet

By Sydney Friskin

When Terry Griffiths begins the defence of the Masters Snooker Championship, sponsored by Benson and Hedges, at the Wembley Conference Centre this week, he will attempt to add yet another item to the record books. No player has won the event more than once since its inception in 1975. His attention will be focused on today's first match, starting at 2 pm, between Steve Davis and the South African left-hander, Perrie Mans.

Griffiths was beaten twice last year by Davis—in the world professional championship at Sheffield and more recently in the United Kingdom Championship at Preston, where Davis won the title in a blaze of glory. They will be treading different paths at Wembley and if they do meet it will be in the final on Sunday.

It is not revenge so much that Griffiths is seeking as the restoration of his confidence after his 9—0 defeat by Davis at Preston. Having recently returned from a holiday with his wife in the Canary Islands Griffiths has settled down to serious practice at his home near Llanelli.

The startling rise to fame of the 23-year-old Davis with his straight and steady cue action, superb temperament and flair for break-building, make him one of the outstanding personalities of this event, regarded as one of the stiffest tests of skill and concentration. If he survives his first match he will meet the world champion, Cliff Thorburn, in the quarter-final round.

Twelve competitors, Griffiths, Ray Reardon, Alex Higgins, Thorburn, Eddie Charlton, Mans, Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, Fred Davis, John Spencer, Doug Mountjoy and Kirk Stevens, will be looking for a share of the £20,000 offered in prize money. The winner will receive £6,000 and the runner-up £3,000. The six previous winners are Spencer, Reardon, Mountjoy, Higgins, Mans and Griffiths; each must be a potential winner at Wembley.

Who knows what Higgins is capable of achieving? A stroke of genius can be followed by the most incredible miss but when he gets going he can be devastating, as many of his rivals know to their cost. He has drawn a bye into the quarter-final round where he will meet either Charlton or Mountjoy, who will appear in today's second match starting at 7.30. Mountjoy showed splendid form in winning the Champion of Champions event in London last October.

The chances of Reardon, who has not won a big event for at least two years, can not be discounted, nor can one dismiss the claims of Thorburn, who beat Higgins in a great 1980 world final at Sheffield. Fred Davis, quoted as the 66-1 outsider, faces Stevens in the first round and the winner here will meet Griffiths. The table is set for the banquet.

Skiing

A fifth victory lengthens Stenmark's lead

Adelboden (Switzerland) Jan 26.—Ingemar Stenmark, of Sweden, opened a 35-point lead in the men's World Cup standings by scoring his fifth victory of the season in a giant slalom race today.

The 24-year-old double Olympic gold medal winner had the fastest time on both runs of the Adelboden course and avoided any of the mistakes which cost him victory in a special slalom in Wengen yesterday.

His margin today was a decisive 1.7 seconds "I need to keep winning for my confidence", Stenmark said. "The trouble with losing races is that you start worrying too much about your mistakes".

Stenmark's time for the two runs today was two mins 45 secs. Christian Orlainsky, of Austria, and Boris Strel, of Yugoslavia, shared second place in 2:46.70, just one-hundredth of a second faster than Jacques Luethy, of Switzerland.

Bojan Krizaj, of Yugoslavia, winner of yesterday's slalom in Wengen, was ninth after the first run today and missed a gate on the second run to drop out.

GIANT SLALOM: 1, I. Stenmark (Sweden), 2:45.00; 2, C. Orlainsky (Austria) and B. Strel (Yugoslavia), 2:46.70; 4, J. Luethy (Switzerland), 2:46.71; 5, J. Halsnes (Norway), 2:46.75; 6, P. Zurbriggen (Switzerland), 2:46.88.
WORLD CUP STANDINGS: 1, Stenmark, 175 pts; 2, P. Müller (Switzerland), 140; 3, P. Mahre (US), 138; 4, S. Podborski (Canada), 105; 5, H. Weirather (Austria), 101; 6, Orlainsky and Krizaj, both 94.
MEN'S GIANT SLALOM STANDINGS: 1, Stenmark, 75 pts; 2, Orlainsky, 55; 3, Phil Mahre, 40; 4, Luethy, 38; 5, Nöckler, 35; 6, Wenzel, 33.
NATIONS CUP: 1, Switzerland 941; 2, Austria 822; 3, United States 706; 4, Italy 470; 5, West Germany 386; 6, France 354.—Reuter.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Off piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Crans Montana	80	170	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-2
Icy patches with high winds							
Davos	150	250	Good	Varied	Good	Snow	-10
Poor visibility but clearing							
Flaine	160	495	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-10
Good skiing conditions							
Kitzbühel	130	215	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-2
Good powder everywhere							
Saas-Fee	20	70	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fine	-4
Worn patches on lower ground							
St Moritz	40	80	Fair	Fair	Ice	Sun	-3
Good snow on facing slopes							
Sauze d'Oulx	25	25	Worn	Varied	Worn	Fine	3
Worn patches everywhere							
Verbier	90	250	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	1
Nearly all runs now open							
Wengen	110	240	Good	Varied	Good	Fair	-1
Excellent skiing conditions							
Wildschönau	210	290	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-1
More snow, good skiing conditions							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Alpbach	100	270	—	—	-3
Axamer-Lizum	—	145	—	—	-5
Badgastein	80	580	—	—	-5
Berwang	200	200	—	—	-6
Brand	150	250	—	—	-1
Gargellen	100	330	—	—	-7
Hochsölden	65	200	—	—	-4
Igls	100	115	—	—	-7
Ischgl	130	260	—	—	-5
Kaprun	—	300	—	—	-9
Lech	100	300	—	—	0
Lermoos	120	270	—	—	-2
Lienz	20	90	—	—	-6
Mayrhofen	60	145	—	—	-8
Mitterndorf	135	310	—	—	-7
Obergurgl	160	300	—	—	-4
Obertauern	200	310	—	—	-3
Saalbach	130	250	—	—	-6
Schruns	100	300	—	—	-2
Serfaus	100	210	—	—	-2
Soll	100	250	—	—	-3
Zürs	210	350	—	—	-7
SWITZERLAND					
Adelboden	40	200	Pwdr	—	-5
Braunwald	220	350	Pwdr	—	-3
Champéry	50	150	Pwdr	—	-1
Château d'Oex	40	200	Pwdr	—	-4
[illegible]	150	250	Pwdr	—	-8
Engelberg	150	300	Pwdr	—	-3
Gstaad	120	200	Pwdr	—	-6
Kandersteg	40	300	Pwdr	—	-3
Klosters	150	230	Pwdr	—	-3
Laax-Flims	150	310	Pwdr	—	-1
Lenk	110	280	Pwdr	—	-7
Lenzerheide	130	220	Pwdr	—	-1
Les Diablerets	100	180	Pwdr	—	-8
Leysin	170	220	Pwdr	—	-3
Pontresina	50	80	Pwdr	—	-3
St Cergue	140	200	Pwdr	—	-3
Savognin	40	110	Pwdr	—	-5
Unterwasser	130	200	Pwdr	—	0

SCOTLAND: Cairngorm: A few main runs complete but narrow; wet snow. Lower slopes, no snow. Vertical runs, 500 feet. Access roads clear. Snow level 2,400 feet. Glenshee: A few main runs complete but narrow; wet snow. Lower slopes, limited nursery areas. Vertical runs, 1,000 feet. Access roads clear. Snow level 2,000 feet. Glencoe: A few main runs complete, others broken; wet snow. Lower slopes, limited nursery areas; wet snow. Access roads clear. Vertical runs, 1,300 feet. Snow level 2,300 feet.

Cresta run

BEATRICE CARTWRIGHT CUP: First top handicap race: Final placings: 1, R. C. Meyerhofer (Czechoslovakia) handicap 5.00, net 165.62; 2, E. Nuzum (GB) 4.00, 167.00; 3, U. Saratz (Czechoslovakia) 3.20, 167.33; 4, C. A. Haeberli (Czechoslovakia) 1.70, 167.83; 5, J. M. K. Buckley (GB) 3.00, 167.94; 6, N. Bibbia (Italy) 1.30, 168.40.

MARSDEN CUP: First open race: Final placings: 1, N. Baracchi (Czechoslovakia) 167.86; 2, C. Nater (Czechoslovakia) 169.58; 3, H. Stricker (Czechoslovakia) 169.84; 4, G. Saratz (Czechoslovakia) 170.77; 5, N. Bibbia (Italy) 170.95; 6, U. Nater (Czechoslovakia) 174.88.

Rackets

Rapid win for Nicholls in army championship

By Roy McKelvie

Mark Nicholls began his defence of the army rackets championship in double quick time at Queen's Club yesterday. He dismissed David Panton, who had earlier come through a five-game match, by 15—0, 15—2, 15—1. Christopher Braithwaite, principal rival to Nicholls for several years now, comes into action today.

There was more enthusiasm than skill about most of yesterday's matches but the players who learned the game at school emerged the winners in all cases. The one who had the hardest fight was Alex Finlayson and he was hard pressed by Timothy Toyne-Sewell, winning 12—15, 15—5, 15—8, 15—12.

Lieut-Colonel Toyne-Sewell is an old army rackets campaigner who enjoys every moment of the game whether watching or playing. He not only organizes and runs the championship but marks some of the matches and re-covers the discarded balls while doing so. His play is robust, his armoury heavy.

There was nearly a knockout early in the first game. Toyne-Sewell having served out his first hand then hit Finlayson a heavy blow with a service on his second. Thereafter, even the spectators had to keep their eyes open for shots flying into the gallery.

Finlayson, though gentle of stroke, perhaps too gentle at times, was the more balanced player. He tended to use the side walls too much and was not disposed to kill the ball when given the chance. But he did have an opponent capable of disrupting the game of many a player.

ARMY SINGLES: Preliminary round: Lt V. Westbrook beat Lt C. P. L. Sandbach, 15—4, 4—15, 15—7, 15—8. First round: Major D. Panton beat Lt Col W. J. C. Dobbie, 0—15, 15—16, 15—10, 15—9, 15—1; Lt Col T. P. Toyne-Sewell beat Major P. N. B. Watts, 15—0, 15—11, 15—9; CSM I. Shorrock beat Capt A. B. Strong, 15—1, 15—2, 15—11; Lt N. G. T. Pellew beat Capt N. J. V. Parsons, 15—2, 15—7, 15—7; 2nd Lt J. R. Boughey beat Westbrook, 15—1, 15—4, 15—1. Second round: Lt M. W. Nicholls beat Panton, 15—0, 15—2, 15—1; 2nd Lt J. H. S. Alderman beat Major E. R. C. Aitken, 15—2, 15—1, 15—12; Capt A. J. Finlayson beat Toyne-Sewell, 12—15, 15—5, 15—8, 15—12.

SPORT

Golf

Graham takes top prize but the gallery belongs to Palmer

From John Hopkins
Phoenix, Arizona, Jan 26

The Phoenix Open golf tournament, which finished just after lunch on a blessedly hot and clear Sunday afternoon, was won by David Graham, an Australian who now lives in Dallas.

It was in many ways, typical of tournaments on the American golf circuit, which started two weeks ago just down the road from here and will run, week in and week out, until the end of October. There was bountiful prize money—a total of £122,000 and a first prize of £21,600. The tournament attracted over 50 of the top 60 money winners from last year's tour (only Tom Watson, Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino were missing).

Graham won, narrowly, on his first appearance of the year in a [illegible] of birdies and [illegible] in a storm of sub-par rounds. He was 15 under par as he stood on the tee of the 524-yard 18th hole and it was there that he heard that Lon Hinkle had had an eagle at the hole to move onto 13 under par also.

Graham drove to the left, hit a safe one iron well away from the lake that lurks on the right-hand side of this hole and then, cool as a cucumber, chipped to four feet and holed the putt. Graham's four rounds, on this 6,726 yard, par 71 course, were 65, 68, 69 and 66.

Graham may have won the first prize but, typically, there was at least one inspired last round that brought a player to the forefront. It was Hinkle this time, but it could have been Johnny Miller, who thrives in the desert. Hinkle had a 62 in his last round, nearly topped and tailed by eagles on the first and 18th holes. There were 10 strokes between Hinkle's first and last round.

Arnold Palmer played and lasted through the four rounds. He is still idol here, his face tanned to a walnut colour, his hair almost completely grey. His galleries always include the prettiest looking girls, the richest-looking men and they yell and scream and whistle whenever "Arnie" does anything. It is well deserved and flattering for a man who will be 52 this year but for his playing partners it can be disconcerting.

Nick Faldo, the tall Englishman, was paired with Palmer on Sunday. Faldo had played steadily in his first tournament of the year and outlasted his contemporary, Sandy Lyle, who also had only arrived a week earlier and Peter Oosterhuis, who lives over here. Faldo made the cut by one stroke and finished the tournament in 59th position [illegible]. He won £320.

More importantly, by making the cut he earned automatic entry into the next tournament—the Bing Crosby event at Pebble Beach just south of San Francisco. Had he not done so he would have had to use one of the three exemptions he is entitled to as a Ryder Cup player or get into the tournament by pre-qualifying.

Lyle, who missed the cut by one stroke, will use his second exemption this week and must play better than he did at Phoenix, where, in his second round—his [illegible] twice in the water in the last four holes. Both Lyle and Faldo have been made aware that life is real and earnest over here and that nothing less than their best will be good enough for them to survive the coming weeks.

David Graham holes the winning putt at Phoenix

FINAL SCORES (US unless stated): 268: D. Graham (Australia), 65, 68, 69, 66. 269: L. Hinkle, 75, 66, 67, [illegible]. 271: C. Peete, 72, 67, 65, 67; M. Reid, 70, 66, 67, 68. 272: J. Pate, 68, 68, 68, 68; M. Lye, 67, 65, 72, 68; M. Sullivan, 71, 66, 70, 65. 273: J. Schroeder, 66, 72, 68, 67. 274: D. A. Weibring, 68, 72, 65, 69; M. O'Meara, 71, 68, 67, 68. 275: B. Lietzke, 69, 68, 68, 70; C. Strange, 72, 68, 65, 70; G. Archer, 69, 69, 71, 66; K. Fergus, 67, 72, 70, 66; J. Nelford, 66, 67, 70, 72.

Table tennis

Miss Knight still lingers on the fringe

Carole Knight, of Cleveland, is back in the reckoning for a place in England's party for the world championships in Yugoslavia from April 14-26. Miss Knight, aged 23, won the English title for the second time last season but has virtually been ignored by the selectors since playing in the European League match against West Germany four months ago.

She was one of two possibles named yesterday to fill the last place in the four-strong women's squad, her rival being the newcomer, Alison Gordon (Berkshire), who is 15. The three certainties include Jill Hammersley, who ended her temporary retirement from the game only last month.

Miss Knight said: "I have been disgusted with the treatment I have received since winning the English championship. Unlike some other players, I was not offered a contract by the English Association. I have not been selected for any important event recently and now they have even not invited me to attend the last two training camps, including the one this week.

"I think Alison is hot favourite to get the last place. I believe I have to win the English title again at Gillingham next month to get into the world team".

Three players—Douglas Johnson (Birmingham), Bob Potton (Essex) and Graham Sandley (Middlesex) are short-listed for the last two places in the five-strong men's squad, which will also be finalised after the English championships and the Czech Open tournament at the end of next month.

The definite selections are: Desmond Douglas (Warwickshire), John Hilton (Lancashire) and Paul Day (Cambridgeshire), Mrs Hammersley (Nottinghamshire), Linda Jarvis (Surrey) and Karen Witt (Berkshire).

Athletics

British rely on experience for match against West Germans

Britain will field one of their most experienced teams for the indoor international against West Germany in Dortmund on Friday. A handful of athletes win their first British vests and most of the rest are seasoned internationals.

David Shaw, the secretary of the British Amateur Athletics Board, said: "I am delighted with the overall quality of the team. In the three years I have been associated with the board, it is the best team we have produced and it must be good for indoor athletics."

Selwyn Clarke, from Herne Hill Harriers, makes his debut in the 60 metres after winning the AAA indoor title at RAF Cosford on Saturday. Other debutants include Mick Whittingham, also from Herne Hill, who is normally a hurdler but won his place in the 800 metres after finishing second to Paul Forbes at Cosford.

Rupert Charles, a London University student, is another first timer, in the high jump, while Donovan Perkins, a member of Spark Hill, also goes in the triple jump.

Maurice Ducasse, of the RAF, wins a place in the 4 x 400 metres relay team after finishing fourth in the indoor championships. Carmen Smart, from Cardiff, who has represented Wales, wins her first British vest in the 200 metres after taking the WAAA title on Saturday.

Roger Hackney, the 23-year-old Olympic steeplechaser, who won the national indoor 1,500 metres, has yet to achieve the European qualifying mark at 3,000 metres and is unavailable for selection in this match, but hopes to compete against East Germany in February. Sue Reeve, the long jumper, is currently in New Zealand, but hopes to be available for the international against East Germany at Cosford, and Olympic 1,500 metres champion Sebastian Coe will also turn out, studies permitting.

David Jenkins, the former European indoor 400 metres champion, missed the nationals through injury but is due to compete in Vittel, France, next weekend, and if he can produce a good time he could still be considered for the East Germany match and then the European championships.

At present the BAAB are considering sending about 15 athletes to the European championships in Grenoble, France, next month—depending on forthcoming performances.

TEAM: Men: 60 metres: S. Clarke, M. Powell. 200 metres: [illegible]. 400 metres: [illegible] Hamilton. 800 metres: P. Forbes, M. Whittingham. 1500 metres: C. Reitz, K. Newton. 3000 metres: R. Callan, G. Harvey. 60 metres hurdles: M. Holton, P. Kelly. Shot put: M. Winch, S. Rodhouse. High jump: M. Naylor, R. Charles. Long jump: A. Moore, T. Wade. Triple jump: Moore, D. Perkins. Pole vault: B. Hooper, K. Stock. 4 x 400 metres relay: Bennett, Tulloch, Hamilton, M. Ducasse.
Women: 60 metres: W. Hoyte, E. Thomas. 200 metres: C. Smart, J. Parry. 400 metres: V. Elder, L. Forsythe. 800 metres: L. Baker, K. McDermott. 1500 metres: G. Dainty, J. Marlow. 60 metres hurdles: S. Strong, Y. Wray. Shot put: A. Littlewood, V. Head. High jump: A.-M. [illegible]

[illegible]

Auckland, Jan 26.—Eight New Zealand allcomers records tumbled over the weekend at a meeting for the New Zealand summer games. A 2.3 metre high jump by the American, Nat Page, broke the previous record by four centimetres.

Field records also fell in the men's triple jump and pole vault, women's javelin and long jump, on the track, a record came from the Olympic 100 metres champion, Alan Wells (Scotland) with a 10.3 seconds, all-comers mark for the distance.

In the triple jump, the American, Mike Marlow, leapt 17.20 metres—well ahead of the previous record of 16.78 metres set in 1979 by an Australian, Ian Campbell. He could not claim the record because of wind assistance. A Japanese pole-vaulter, Tomomi Takahashi, set a New Zealand record of 5.31 metres.

In the women's javelin, Tessa Sanderson (England) unleashed a 63.72 metres throw to add more than eight metres to the New Zealand record set at the inaugural New Zealand games six years ago. The Australian, Linda Garden, claimed the final allcomers record with 6.62 metres in the women's long jump.—AP.

Cycling

WELLINGTON: New Zealand Games 70-km road race: 1, G. Sadler (GB), 2 hrs 16 min 4 secs; 2, R. Sumich (NZ); 3, L. Fusaroli (Italy); 4, G. Millar (NZ); 5, J. Swart (NZ); 6, D. Webster (GB).

Chapman's winning start

Newcastle, New South Wales, Jan 26.—Roger Chapman, a former English amateur golf champion, sank a 6ft putt on the last green to win the Macquarie international amateur championship by one stroke today. Chapman took the outright lead for the first time at the 16th when his shot with a nine iron finished 20ft from the pin and he sank the putt for an eagle three.

He finished with a total of 287, one under par, to win from the overnight leader, Colin Kaye, of Australia. John Kelly, also of Australia, and Geoffrey Clarke, of New Zealand, were third on 290.

"What a start to my first visit to Australia—to win the first major amateur event I enter," Chapman said.

Chapman qualified for the British Open in 1977 but failed in the succeeding years. He won the amateur title in 1979 as well as four other events but 1980 proved to be a bleak year. He arrived in Newcastle early and practised on the course for eight days.

After Kelly had fallen three strokes behind at the 16th, Chapman and Kaye both dropped a stroke at the 17th. Chapman was short of the 18th green with his second and Kaye landed 15ft from the pin. Chapman chipped 6ft past the hole and was left with his match-winning putt after Kaye was inches short

Two out of three for Bland

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Jan 26

John Bland scored his second successive victory in the Sigma series tournament when he returned a 70 for a total of 273 at the Zwartkop course, near Pretoria, yesterday. Bland, aged 34, was the outright winner of the series and earned £6,500 and a £2,750 bonus.

Nick Price and Tienie Britz were joint second with 274. Price finished second in all three events, behind Mark McNulty in the first and Bland in the other two. His total earnings were £7,630.

No overseas players won major prizes. In the final round the best visiting players' scores were by Ian Mosey (Britain) and Simon Hobday (Zimbabwe), both on 278. Baldovino Dassu (Italy) had 279; Ronan Rafferty (Ireland), 281; Keith Waters (Britain), 285 and John O'Leary (Ireland), 286.

Drugs racket

Paris, Jan 26. — The International Tennis Federation is to consider on Thursday and Friday a proposal from its president, Philippe Chatrier, that drug controls should be introduced at all grand prix tennis tournaments.—Agence France-Presse.

Swimming

British team for Paris

A British team of 16 swimmers, sponsored by the Yorkshire Bank, will compete in the third International Arena meeting in Paris on February 6 to 8.

MEN: C. Dale, J. Davey, J. Howard, S. Levingion, A. Moorhouse, J. Randall, D. Stacey, J. Walker.
WOMEN: J. Admans, S. Brownsdon, J. Croft, H. Jameson, P. Jones, A. Osgerby, J. Osgerby, G. Stanley.

Indoor hockey

THE HAGUE: Women: Northrhein Westfalen 9, Hamburg 2. Third place: Vienna 3, Dutch national team 0. Men: Dutch national team 12, Lions (London) 5. Third place: Murray International Metals (Scotland) 5, Shamrocks (Ireland) 4.

Basketball

Two defeats spoil Doncaster's weekend

By Nicholas Harling

As if their comprehensive defeat in Friday's National cup final, sponsored by Asda, did not do enough to spoil Doncaster's weekend, on Sunday the Yorkshire club's place in the National championship play-offs in March was jeopardized by their seventh league reverse.

Doncaster were beaten 78—74 by Ovaltine, who thus improved their own chances of appearing at Wembley in the event for which only the top four teams in the league qualify. The only fact in Doncaster's favour is that they face what appears to be an easier end-of-season programme than do either Ovaltine or Sunderland, the other two clubs hoping to accompany Crystal Palace and Team Fiat.

For much of Sunday's home game Doncaster seemed to be in control. They led for most of the first half before relinquishing the lead three minutes before half-time but after regaining the advantage in the second half they were outscored by 12 points to 2 in a disastrous five-minute period. Although Stewart (22 points) was Ovaltine's top scorerse, the Hemel Hempstead club were as indebted to Pace, who not only scored 14 points, 10 of them with spectacular dunk shots, but was instrumented in restricting Bell and Bycroft to 18 points apiece for Doncaster.

Palace, who were too good for Doncaster for the second year running n the cup final, go to Sunderland on Saturday for a game which will determine whether they have the resolve and possibly the strength in depth to deprive Fiat of the championship. Both clubs won their league fixtures comfortably at the weekend, Sunderland overcoming Talbot Guilford 83—64, Palace returning home in victorious style with a 78—66 success over Trafford Giants, helped by 22 points from Lloyd. The game was missed by their guard, Alton Byrd, who had apparently aggravated his knee injury in the cup final. If they are without Byrd and the still-stricken Jeremich at Sunderland, Palace may find it difficult enhancing their ambitions against the league's most improved team.

Fiat, who have yet to lose a league game and would be top if it was not for the fact they had played two games less, had no trouble winning 112—82 at Stockport Belgrade, who did, however, have the outstanding marksman in Martin (39). White (31) and Stroeder (25) ran him fairly close for Fiat.

The other first division game went to extra time before Blackpool experienced the satisfaction of winning for the second successive week, having lost all their previous games. Kelly Girl, Kingston, were the side they beat 86—83, with the help of 26 points from Agler and 20 from Sigl.

Solent resumed their winning ways in the Seond division at the expense of Nottingham, beaten 120—56, but Brighton, their recent conquerors, remained very much in contention for promotion with an impressive 95—93 victory at Liverpool, who may now have to be content with third place.

Boxing

Another weighty problem confronts Sibson tonight

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Tony Sibson, Britain's middleweight European champion, is one of the lucky few who know exactly where they are going and how. His manager, Sam Burns, has a line-up of opponents in mind for his charge and a hop, skip and jump—Norberto Cabrera, Vito Antuofermo and Alan Minter—and Sibson could be in the ring with Marvin Hagler. While each step looks financially better than the one before, none of these opponents is beyond Sibson's capabilities: each will add greatly to his experience.

Sibson, who has always had a weight problem, says he will come in inside the limit tonight at the Albert Hall against Cabrera, of Argentina. I do not know if Cadbury's have noticed whether their stocks have been moving rather more slowly, but Sibson, who knows all about pralines and montelimars, says he has got his diet under control and, chased by Mr Burns, he is keeping that way.

Cabrera has been around with the best in the world. He was Carlos Monzon's sparring partner and something must have rubbed off on him from the former world champion. He is a tough walk-in fighter in the true Argentine mould and he is durable and courageous besides. He beat Hugo Corro before Corro became the world champion by beating Rodrigo Valdez and has been eight rounds with Hagler, who stopped him, though not without a scrap.

However, there is common ground—Frankie Lucas. Cabrera beat Lucas over 10 hard rounds, Sibson stopped Lucas in five, although that was two years later. If Sibson can stop Cabrera he will join Hagler in a select band of three to do so.

To stop the Argentine, Sibson will have to be meaner even than when he beat Matteo Salvemini, of Italy, for the European title. Too often the Leicester man has shown a tendency to stand back after sinking a hard left to the ribs to admire his handiwork instead of giving his opponent another one. I expect the Argentine to open up about the third round after "sussing out" the Englishman and then possibly to flake out near the end. So it looks a good test all round which will be hard while it lasts and at the end of it, if nothing untoward happens, Sibson should be higher up the rankings than sixth—which he took over from Salvemini—and breathing down Minter's neck.

Dave Green carries on his light-middleweight campaign with a bout against Garry Holmgren, of the United States, who received a pleasant surprise yesterday when the passport, credit cards, $400 and boxing licence that he lost in mid-air were returned to him. They were found in the aircraft's toilet.

Motor rallying

Rivals adrift as Mikkola ploughs on through snow

Monte Carlo, Jan 26.—A sudden thaw appeared to be the only enemy facing the leader of the Monte Carlo Rally, Hannu Mikkola, of Finland, when he led the surviving crews out of the Mediterranean principality tonight. With his Swedish partner Hans Thorszelius, he had underlined the superiority of their Audi on the snow-swept run into the resort earlier in the day.

They held a lead of almost six minutes over their closest rivals, Jean-Luc Therier and Michel Vial, of France, in a Porsche. They had built up their lead by achieving scratch times on al of the special stages on the slippery mountain pass roads on the run from Aix-les-Bains.

The powerful Audi, with 300 horsepower packed under its bonnet and a top speed of about 160 mph, had been expected to thrive in snow. It did not disappoint. The Renaults, better suited to dryer conditions began to wilt in the early hours of the morning but Jean Ragnotti and Jean-Marc Andrie lay third, only 18 seconds behind Therier. Another all-French crew, Guy Frequelin and Jean Todt, brought their Talbot Lotus home in overall fourth place.

The second Renault 5 turbo, being driven by Bruno Saby and Daniel le Saux, was half a minute behind and last year's world champions, Fiat, had a disappointing start. Their top driver, Markku Alen, of Finland, and Ilka Kivimaki had to struggle.

The spectacular second special stage at La Chartreuse was particularly hard on the two Ford Escort crews and on Henri Toivonen, the recent RAC Lombard rally winner. He lost valuable time when his Talbot Lotus punctured half-way through the stage and Bjorn Waldegaard, of Sweden, also had to stop to change a tyre. It was worse for the other Ford Escort crew of Ari Vatanen, of Finland, and David Richards, of Britain, who lost at least six minutes carrying out emergency repairs to the electric system.

Waldegaard, hoping for a third victory in the event, stormed back in the early hours of the morning but his hopes were dashed when he crashed off the road on the final stage between Sisteron and Melan. First reports said that both crew members were unhurt and that, although the car was badly damaged, it was able to complete the stage.

At least 20 of the 256 crews which set out from aix-les-bains yesterday failed to reach here. Among them was the British Ford Escort of Geoff Fielding and Tony Coulding. They withdrew after four of the six special stages

LEADING PLACINGS (after six stages): 1, H. Mikkola (Finland) and A. Hertz (Sweden), Audi Quattro Turbo, 2hrs 5mins [illegible]; 2, J.-L. Therier and M. Vial (France), Porsche 2.11.51; 3, J. Ragnotti and J.-M. Andrie (France), Renault 5 Turbo, 2.11.10(?); 4, G. Frequelin and J. Todt (France), Talbot Lotus, 2.11.55; 5, B. Saby and D. le Saux (France), Renault 5 Turbo, 2.12.36; 6, M. Alen and I. Kivimaki (Finland), Fiat 131 Abarth, 2.12.58; 14, R. Aaltonen (Finland) and K. Gormley (GB), Datsun Violet, 2.19.04; 16, H. Toivonen (Finland) and F. Gallagher (GB), Talbot Lotus, 2.[illegible]; 18, A. Vatanen (Finland) and D. Richards (GB), Ford Escort, 2.19.57; 114, N. Francis and P. Rushforth (GB), [illegible] Lotus, 2.50.27; 140, J. Tabb and T. Ones (GB), Peugeot 104; [illegible], J. Banks and J. Thorpe (GB), Ford Escort, 2.51.57.—Agence France-Presse.

Tennis

KING'S CUP: Sweden 2, Britain 1 (A. Jarryd beat J. Bates 6—4, 1—6, [illegible]; [illegible] lost to R. Lewis [illegible] 7—5 [illegible]; Jarryd and H. Simonsson beat Lewis and A. Jarrett [illegible]); Bulgaria [illegible] Yugoslavia [illegible]; Netherlands 3, Norway 0; Denmark 3, Poland 0.

MONTERREY (Mexico): Final round: J. Kriek (SA) beat V. Gerulaitis (US) 6—7, 6—3, 7—6.

CINCINNATI: Final round: M. Navratilova (Czechoslovakia) beat S. Hanika (W Ger) [illegible].

LEADING GRAND PRIX STANDINGS: 1, J. Kriek (SA), 175 pts; 2, V. Gerulaitis (US), 120; 3, E. Teltscher (US), 75; 4, V. Amritraj (India) and W. Fibak (Poland), 70; 6, Tim Gullikson (US), [illegible]; M. Edmondson (Australia) and W. Scanlon (US), 50; [illegible], R. Drysdale (Australia), Tom Gullikson (US), B. Manson (US), P. Portes (France), J. Sadri (US), R. Ramirez (Mexico) [illegible]; 15, S. Mayer (US) and I. Gonzalez (US), 30.

Hockey

Miss Edwards defies lively Midlands

By Joyce Whitehead

Midlands 0 North 0

At Lilleshall National Sports Centre yesterday Midlands must have surprised North, not only by holding them to a goalless draw but by attacking so persistently. Both teams had already played one match in the territorial series; North beat East and looked very good whereas Midlands lost to South and looked very vulnerable.

Yesterday Midlands played with much more verve. The return of Susan Parsons (Staffordshire), after a cracked bone in her foot from a fall downstairs, benefited the defence and although they were still shaky at times they became more of a unit. It was a shame that the Midlands forwards hung on to the ball so long. Possible shots went a'begging as the seconds slipped by.

Diane Dredge (Bedfordshire) on the right wing, and the new Midlands captain Mary Grimley (Leicestershire) on the left, sent across some good centres but perhaps the player of the match was Jackie Edwards, the North's new goalkeeper from Durham. Miss Edwards fully justified her selection.

North were calm and unruffled throughout and this enabled them to deal with every situation, particularly in defence. Lesley Haslem frequently intercepted passes and she and the North centre forward, Carol Dudley (Lancashire), always looked dangerous.

MIDLANDS: L. Barlow (Bedfordshire), K. Llewelyn (Warwickshire), S. Parsons (Staffordshire), M. Allen (Bedford CPE), M. Flanagan (Warwickshire), B. Holden (Northamptonshire), K. Gurr (Leicestershire, sub D. Dredge, Bedfordshire), H. Woodward (Leicestershire), K. Gordon (Leicestershire), J. Swinnerton (Staffordshire), M. Grimley (Leicestershire).
NORTH: J. Edwards (Durham), J. Schkurka (Sheffield League), L. Carr (Lancashire), M. Eckersall (Lancashire), P. Brodie (Cheshire), N. Dixon (Durham), M. Souyave (Lancashire), L. Haslem (Cheshire), C. Dudley (Lancashire), P. Standish (Lancashire), D. Grundy (Lancashire).
Umpires: M. Harris and O. Lambert.

Slough, the national club men's champions, who travelled to Durham on Sunday, have another long journey ahead of them for the second round of the event on February 8, Sydney Friskin writes. They are drawn against Nottingham who just beat Richmond, 1—0.

Southgate, former champions, who easily defeated Newcastle University, are at home to Spencer from whom they can expect stiffer opposition.

DRAW: Nottingham v Slough; Bluebharts v Olton and West Warwickshire; Southgate v Spencer; Doncaster v St Albans; Gloucester City v Brean; RAF Strike Command v Neston; Bromley v Westcliff; Havant v Guildford.

Rugby League

Shaw loses battle for fitness

By Keith Macklin

The long battle to regain fitness has been lost by the Widnes and Wales' prop, Glyn Shaw. He had hoped to play for Wales against France in Saturday's international at Narbonne, but yesterday he conceded that his neck injury will not clear up in time.

The Welsh squad met at Leeds for training last night, and Shaw's replacement was named as Gareth Owen (Oldham). Owen moves up from substitute forward and into that vacant place comes Roger Owen, the St Helens forward newly recruited this season from Welsh Rugby Union.

Two Great Britain v France internationals will be played on Saturday. Headingley will house the Great Britain under-19 versus France game. Both the Wales and Great Britain under-19 teams will be announced today.

Racing

Nicholson expects Toondra to excel

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

The strong hand that David Nicholson holds among the four-year-olds this season was well illustrated at Haydock Park on Saturday when Sir Gordon followed up his victory at Ascot the week before by tearing away with the Bury Novices Hurdle. Strength in depth is a quality that one often associates with a top class football club but it is equally applicable to a successful racing stable.

With Broadsword leading the way, Nicholson has been able to plunder the prize mony allocated to this age group but his success has not been confined to this colt, who is favourite to win the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham in March. Sir Gordon, Merciless King and Great Developer have all made significant contributions to the stable's haul and at Nottingham today Nicholson will be hoping that Toondra will follow suit by winning the first division of the Stop Gap Hurdle.

When he was trained for flat racing at Newmarket by Michael Jarvis, Toondra belonged to Lady Beaverbrook, whose colours he carried to a fine win in the Queen's Vase at Royal Ascot. Now he is owned by Lord Vestey who has had horses trained by Nicholson in the Cotswolds since 1970. During that period that good steeplechaser What a Buck has been the best to sport his colours but there are high hopes that Toondra will also excel.

Nicholson was satisfied with the way that Toondra ran in his only race so far under National Hunt rules at Newbury at the beginning of this month, even though he finished only fifth behind Highway. He was adamant beforehand that his horse would need the race. A slight infection in one leg prevented Toondra from running again at Ascot 10 days ago but the colt is fine again now and with the stable and their jockey, Peter Scudamore, in almost invincible form it will be disappointing if he cannot account for Franciscus at these weights.

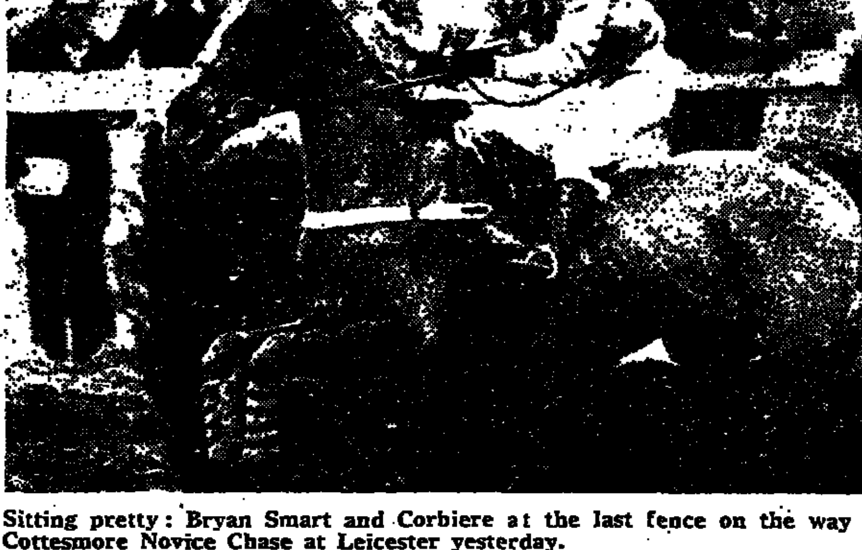
Yet it is only fair to say that Franciscus, who was no mug himself on the flat when he was trained by Robert Armstrong, ran away with the last race of 1980 at Cheltenham on New Year's Eve and it will be no pushover for Toondra this afternoon. The other division may be won by Chuck's Son who was running well in the race won by Merciless King on this course earlier this month even though he did not finish in the first three.

Major Thompson, my selection for the Bonnington Handicap Steeplechase was desperately unlucky not to win his last race at Weatherby according to Tim Thomson Jones, who rode him on that occasion. Apparently, Major Thompson was pulling double over the eventual winner Bannow Breeze when he muffed the last fence of all and paid for his carelessness.

Major Thompson is trained by one of the men of the moment, Peter Easterby, who had intended running Pay Related at Chepstow today. But part of the course was waterlogged yesterday and the Stewards, after an afternoon inspection, had to abandon the meeting. Constant rain since the last meeting had given the course no chance to dry out.

Finally it was announced yesterday that Holsten Distributors Ltd are increasing their sponsorship of racing substantially this year. They will be supporting 10 races on eight racing days up and down the country: their most significant addition being their support for three races at Newmarket on May 16 which will be known as Holsten Day.

STATE OF GOING (official): Nottingham: Good to soft. Tomorrow: Newcastle: Heavy. Wolverhampton: hurdle course, soft; 'chase course, good to soft.



Sitting pretty: Bryan Smart and Corbiere at the last fence on the way to winning the Cottesmore Novice Chase at Leicester yesterday.

Nottingham programme

1.0 STOP GAP HURDLE (Div I: 4-y-o: £483: 2m)
3 01 Franciscus (D), A. Jarvis, 11-3 .. Francome
10 002 Esal Boy, D. Kent, 10-10 .... Haynes
13 04 Freeze Frame, M. Camacho, 10-10 Oldham 4
14 000 Headstone, N. Graham, 10-10 .. Burgoyne 4
15 00p Himavan (B), Rex Carter, 10-10 .... Blacker
16 0000 Hunting Heir, Mrs J. Pitman, 10-10 ..... A. Jones 7
17 0 Irish Rifle, D. Laing, 10-10 .... Floyd
18 000 Just Wharton, W. Hardy, 10-10 Mr Bissill 7
19 0 Lady Frampton, W. Charles, 10-10 Charles 4
20 3000 Little Bee, G. Fletcher, 10-10 .. Fletcher 4
21 Miss Metro, C. Drew, 10-10 ...... Pearce
22 p Pert Lad, M. Chapman, 10-10 Charles-Jones 7
25 Rag Dancer, W. Elsey, 10-10 ...... Flint
27 00 Saldatore, D. Morley, 10-10 .. B. R. Davies
28 0000 Salvalou, J. Blundell, 10-10 .... Dutton 7
29 0 Toondra, D. Nicholson, 10-10 .... Scudamore
30 0pp0 Warrior Bold (B), P. Felgate, 10-10 McNeill
31 Weston Favell, A. Jarvis, 10-10 .. Carmody
6-4 Toondra, 2-1 Franciscus, 8-1 Esal Boy, 12-1 Little Bee, 14-1 Weston Favell, 16-1 Saldatore, Freeze Frame, 20-1 others.

1.30 BONNINGTON CHASE (Handicap: £1,200: 2m)
202 u-24f Leirum (C, B), P. Calver, 10-11-13 Tinkler
203 1-32f Major Thompson (D, B), M. H. Easterby, 7-11-10 ..... —
204 00/0 Marchelstown, W. Clay, 11-11-7 .... Clay
208 0133 Hazy Isle, J. Webber, 10-10-7 Mr P. Webber
209 32p-f Prince Kumar VI (D), F. Yardley, 9-10-2 ..... Morris
5-4 Major Thompson, 6-1 Leirum, 8-1 Hazy Isle, 14-1 Prince Kumar VI, 20-1 Marchelstown.

2.0 CARLTON HURDLE (Handicap: £1,026: 2m)
302 1u31 Danhagen (D), A. Jarvis, 5-11-5 .. Carmody
306 0p-00 Mister Ketchup, P. Calver, 6-10-9 .. Tinkler
308 00-00 Leselue, G. Balding, 5-10-8 .... Reilly
309 2203 Gay Twenties (D), Rex Carter, 7-10-8 ..... Blacker
311 2-040 Glen Moy, D. Ringer, 6-10-7 ..... McNeill
312 -0010 Saracen Prince (D, B), P. Kelleway, 5-10-6 ...... Clay
314 0000 Destiny Hill (D, B), S. Holland, 10-10-4 ..... R. F. Davies
317 2140 Sallys Carousella (CD), P. Bevan, 7-10-1 ..... Wall 7
321 2001 Measure Up (CD), J. Blundell, 5-10-0 ..... Dutton 7
322 p-004 Solidor, H. Hanmer, 5-10-0 .. Mr Crawford
324 02/ Baity, P. Ransom, 9-10-0 .... Tornell
325 0400 Gamie Rose (D), M. Chapman, 10-10-0 ..... Charles-Jones 7
5-2 Danhagen, 7-2 Gay Twenties, 5-1 Sallys Carousella, 7-1 Mister Ketchup, 8-1 Measure Up, 10-1 Saracen Prince, 12-1 Leselue, 14-1 others.

2.30 OLLERTON CHASE (Handicap: £1,379: 3m)
402 313-0 Lord Gulliver, Mrs J. Pitman, 8-12-0 Blacker
409 1124 All Right Jack (B), D. Gandolfo, 8-11-7 ..... Barton
410 /p-00 Devon Mignon, R. Bethell, 11-11-5 .. Grant
411 211/ Railway Line (D), J. Webber, 9-11-4 ..... Mr Webber
413 -2133 Sea Emperor (D), G. Kindersley, 10-11-3 ..... King
417 -p040 Salvial (D), J. Dalton, 13-10-10 R. F. Davies
420 -0040 Bitter End, D. McCain, 9-10-0 .... Pimlott
2-1 All Right Jack, 3-1 Lord Gulliver, 7-2 Sea Emperor, 8-1 Salvial, 10-1 Railway Line, 16-1 Devon Mignon, 20-1 Bitter End.

3.0 ELVASTON CHASE (Novices: £960: 2m)
503 0-341 Paceman, N. Gaselee, 7-11-9 ...... Linley
508 0400 Antique Seeker, M. Ryan, 6-11-4 .... Pearce
509 0000 Corsard, J. Scallan, 10-11-4 .... —
513 10-00 Drops O'Brandy, J. Edwards, 6-11-4 Warner
515 00/0 Glossed Over, G. Balding, 7-11-4 .... Reilly
515 2211 Majestic Bay, S. Norton, 7-11-4 .... Barry
516 f00-0 Menelikely, J. Webber, 6-11-4 .. Mr Webber
517 0-4f Mister Oats, D. Kent, 8-11-4 ...... Haynes
518 00-30 Moonshot, T. Forster, 7-11-4 ..... Barton
519 00 Mountain Groom, T. Forster, 6-11-4 .. —
520 00-02 Pewter Spear, D. McCain, 8-11-4 ..... Beardwood 7
521 000-0 Prince Carlton, J. Bloom, 6-11-4 .... Rowe
523 03/f Scottish Sovereign, W. Clay, 10-11-4 .. Clay
524 01/2- Staccato, D. Morley, 8-11-4 .... B. R. Davies
5-1 Staccato, 4-1 Pewter Spear, 9-2 Moonshot, 6-1 Paceman, 7-1 Majestic Bay, 10-1 Mister Oats, 12-1 Antique Seeker, 14-1 others.

3.30 STOP GAP HURDLE (Div II: 4-y-o: £483: 2m)
604 001 Worstead (D), M. Tompkins, 11-3 .. Linley
608 00 Chuck's Song, D. Laing, 10-10 .... Floyd
609 02 Dark Hope, P. Kelleway, 10-10 ...... King
610 Despatch, G. Fletcher, 10-10 ...... Pearce
611 Dutch Challenger, D. Morley, 10-10 ..... B. R. Davies
615 0334 Harford, D. Nicholson, 10-10 .. Scudamore
618 00 Mr President Wear, D. Kent, 10-10 Haynes
619 Nahana, P. Bevan, 10-10 .... Wall 7
621 Pitskelly Blues, A. Jarvis, 10-10 .. Carmody
623 p Seventh Valley, J. Bloom, 10-10 .... Howe
624 p0f Sicilian Gold, M. Chapman, 10-10 ..... Charles-Jones 7
625 0 Talka Chancery, A. Potts, 10-10 ...... Murphy
627 4000 Tudor Lyric, W. Clay, 10-10 .... Clay
628 000 Victor Hugo, V. Soane, 10-10 ...... Francome
629 0 Yews Lady, F. Gibson, 10-10 .... Johnson 7
11-8 Harford, 4-1 Dutch Challenger, 6-1 Pitskelly Blues, 7-1 Worstead, 10-1 Dark Hope, 12-1 Mr President Wear, 16-1 Chuck's Song, 20-1 others.

Nottingham selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
1.0 Toondra. 1.30 Major Thompson. 2.0 Leselue. 2.30 Lord Gulliver. 3.0 Staccato. 3.30 Chuck's Song.

Chepstow under Rimell's fire

John Hughes came in for strong criticism from Fred Rimell, his Kinnersley neighbour, after the Chepstow clerk of the course had called off today's meeting because of waterlogging.

Rimell, whose stables are about a 45-minute drive from the racecourse, said: "I can't understand why the stewards waited until today to call for an inspection. The clerk of the course could have saved a lot of people a lot of time and trouble if he had let the press know yesterday that the meeting was in danger.

"I live in quite close proximity to the course and over the past three days the weather has been marvellous. Some of my owners have travelled all the way from Humberside to see their horse run and because of this last-minute abandonment I was unable to save them a wasted journey."

Mr Hughes blamed overnight and steady morning rain for the loss of the meeting. He said the course had not properly dried out since the last meeting on January 12. "About threequarters of a furlong of the course is under water", he said.

Carmody ban: too much whip

Tommy Carmody will be out of action for six days from February 4 after his ban by the Stockton stewards for "excessive and incorrect use of the whip" yesterday. Carmody, who rode Kenlis into second place behind Golden Jest in the Stockton Handicap Chase, was highly-critical of the findings: "I don't see how you can hurt a horse when you are just giving it back handers", he said.

Carmody hit the runner-up six times from the second last fence. At Catterick's New Year meeting he picked up a £25 fine for a similar offence and the stewards unofficially warned him about his use of the whip.

Solo Sam looked a clear winner before crumpling on landing at the last, leaving Golden Jest clear. The trainer Arthur Stephenson's afternoon double was completed in the Mandate Novices Chase by Dusty Duke, who, in the hands of Ridley Lamb, beat Chartered Course by three lengths.

Bobby Brig overcame the favourite Badsworth Boy in the Billingham Handicap Hurdle—to also provide a double for Lamb.

Leicester results

1.0 (1.1) CROXTON PARK HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £690: 2m)
WEAVERS LOOM, b g, by Weavers Hall—Lama (Maj J. Surtees), 5-11-0 .... R. Linley (4-6 fav) 1
Wingetts ...... P. Warner (10-1) 2
Malaysian Rubber ..... J. Hansen (50-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 18p; places, 11p, £1.43, £8.65; dual forecast, 98p. CSF: 78p. N. Gaselee at Lambourn. 8l, hd. Quisiador (25-1) 4th. 20 ran. NR: Nanane.

1.30 (1.31) BROOK HURDLE (Handicap: Selling: £478: 2m)
INDIAN SONG, br g, by Silent Song—Ivinia (T. Myles), 6-11-7 ..... J. Lovejoy (5-2) 1
Rachel Street .. J. A. Harris (25-1) 2
Culler .... C. Mann (10-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 30p; places, 15p, 33p, 47p; dual forecast, 69p. CSF: £6.29. D. Kent, at Chichester. 4l, 1l. Princess Saulingo 2-1 fav. Julie Simone (8-1) 4th. 9 ran. The winner was bought in for 1,500 gns.

2.0 (2.2) COTTESMORE CHASE (Novices: £2,330: 3m)
CORBIERE, ch g, by Harwell—Ballycashen (B. Burrough), 6-11-8 ..... B. Smart (11-8 fav) 1
Sea Captain .. J. Francome (15-2) 2
Manion Castle .. M. Barnes (12-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 23p; places, 16p, 25p, 21p; dual forecast, 53p. CSF: £1.65. Mrs J. Pitman, at Upper Lambourn. nk, 20l. Talon (13-2) 4th. 13 ran.

2.30 (2.31) RUGBY CHASE (Handicap: £1,397: 2m)
SPIN AGAIN, br m, by Royalty—A Yarn (Mrs D. Stoddart), 10-6 ..... B. R. Davies (2-1 fav) 1
Casbah .... J. Francome (11-4) 2
Prince of Pleasure R. Hyett (11-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 29p; Dual F, 61p. CSF: 75p. D. Morley, at Bury St Edmunds. Nk, 8l. Solar Lad (1-1), 4th. 5 ran.

3.0 (3.1) DANIEL LAMBERT HURDLE (Handicap: £987: 2m)
FULL SUTTON, gr g, by Sovereign's Charm—Our Pearl (Mrs S. Powell), 6-10-4 ..... P. Harnes (2-1 fav) 1
Fob .... T. Wall (6-1) 2
French Charisma P. Blacker (7-2) 3
TOTE: Win, 41p; places, 15p, 20p, 11p. Dual F, £1.11. CSF: £1.60. D. Kent, at Chichester. 2½l, 12l. Leiligo (12-1) 4th. 10 ran.

3.30 (3.31) CROXTON PARK HURDLE (Div II: Novices: £690: 2m)
WESTMINSTER ABBEY, br g, by Royalty—Fulfilment (Mrs E. Lambton), 5-11-7 ..... S. Smith Eccles (4-5 fav) 1
Corduroy .... B. R. Davies (11-2) 2
Fearless Seal .. J. Holt (33-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 26p; places, 10p, 36p, 45p. Dual F, 50p. CSF: 57p. W. Holden, at Newmarket. 1l, 12l. Nimble Dove (16-1) 4th. 17 ran. NR: Wilton Beacon, Welsh Dai. JACKPOT: £15.70. PLACEPOT: £7.40.

Stockton

1.15 (1.15) ROSEWORTH NOVICES HURDLE (Handicap: £334: 2m 1f)
NEVER STOP, b g, by Go Marching—Telstop (M. Oakshott), 4-10-12 ..... C. Pimlott (12-1) 1
Belle Isle Boy .. Mrs A. Gray (8-1) 2
Lunar Wind .. A. Stringer (13-1) 3
TOTE: Win, £2.01; places, 49p, 21p, 28p, 22p. Dual F, £6.11. CSF: £11.15. C. Bell, at Hawick. Nk, 3l. Irishman (9-4) fav. Capvista (11-1) 4th. 17 ran.

1.45 (1.45) HARTBURN OPPORTUNITY HURDLE (Selling handicap: £378: 2m 1f)
SEALEGATION, b m, by Sealepic—Dear Madam (N. Stephens), 7-11-2 ...... S. Johnson (7-2) 1
Gay Troop Ruth Hargreaves (12-1) 2
Pretty Boy Floyd ..... A. Stringer (2-1 fav) 3
TOTE: Win, 29p; places, 10p, 15p, 38p. Dual F, 80p. CSF: £4.00. J. Spearing, at Alcester. 7l, 12l. Calata Prince (5-1) 4th. 8 ran.

2.15 (2.16) STOCKTON CHASE (Handicap: £1,270: 3m)
GOLDEN JEST, ch g, by Golden Love—Magesterial (J. Meecham), 7-0-7 .... Mr E. MacIntyre (6-1) 1
Kenlis .... T. Carmody (2-1 fav) 2
Castle Arch ...... P. Tuck (11-2) 3
TOTE: Win, 98p; places, 37p, 14p. Dual F, 77p. CSF: £1.75. W. A. Stephenson, at Bishop Auckland. 2½l, 15l. Game Laddie (7-2) 4th. 7 ran.

2.45 (2.48) BILLINGHAM HURDLE (Handicap: £648: 2m 1f)
BOBBY BRIG, br g, by New Brig—Kings Girl (M. Brown), 5-10-0 ..... R. Lamb (10-1) 1
Badsworth Boy ..... T. Carmody (11-10 fav) 2
Poker Player ...... G. Bradley (9-2) 3
TOTE: Win, 91p; places, 27p, 10p, 39p. Dual F, 78p. CSF: £2.08. G. Lamb at Seahouses. 1½l, nk. Aversun (13-2) 4th. 10 ran.

3.15 (3.17) MANDALE CHASE (Novices: £864: 2m)
DUSKY DUKE, br g, by Dusky Boy—Da Capo (Charlotte Lady Reay), 6-12-2 ..... R. Lamb (6-1) 1
Chartered Course .. P. Tuck (5-2 fav) 2
New House Estate ..... C. Fairhurst (16-1) 3
TOTE: Win, £1.52; places, 34p, 10p, 20p. Dual F, £3.13. CSF: £2.05. W. A. Stephenson at Bishop Auckland. 3l, 7l. Loch Owen (100-30) 4th. 11 ran.

3.45 (3.46) OXBRIDGE HURDLE (4-y-o novices: £340: 2m 1f)
MY TIMMY, b g, by Lauso—Yanoula (T. Hughes) 11-3 ..... P. Tuck (5-6 fav) 1
Dorothy Kate .. T. Carmody (9-2) 2
Kilmaspec Gal ..... A. Brown (11-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 13p; places, 10p, 22p, 46p. Dual F, 32p. CSF: 40p. M. W. Easterby at Sheriff Hutton. 5l, 1l. Powder Horn (20-1) 4th. 11 ran. NR: Captain Brassbound.
PLACEPOT: £5.30. POOL: £587.00.

How Mao's widow found herself friendless in the dock . . .

The callous revolutionary who lusted for power

There are good reasons to believe she hated men because she and her mother were maltreated by her father, and because, as a young actress in Shanghai, she was exposed to lewd male gossip . . .

Peking

Jiang Qing, the widow of Mao Tse Tung, who may never be seen in public again, had a gift for making enemies. Arrogant and opinionated, even on subjects of which she knew little, she systematically destroyed China's intellectual and cultural life for more than a decade. This is not in itself a capital offence. But she was also indicted for having caused or connived at the persecution—sometimes to death—of countless thousands of people in one purge alone, it is alleged, 3,000 people died.

It is difficult to know how seriously to take the complex political charges against Jiang Qing. All Chinese political declamation has an element of exaggeration. But her own behaviour in court, before the eyes of millions of television viewers, certainly gave the impression of a choleric and vindictive woman.

Almost as though deliberately, Mao's widow touched on all the misogynous prejudices which linger on in China—not least among the women, whose propensity for mutual spite is second to none.

Ironically, it was a woman—and a feminist—who unintentionally presented to the world the most damaging picture of Jiang Qing. Dr Roxane Witke, an American scholar, interviewed her at length in 1972, but the interviews, in book form, were not published until after their subject had been overthrown in 1976.

Dr Witke's portrait of Jiang Qing is marred by its dearth of direct quotations and discursive backgrounding. But although Dr Witke seemed to admire Jiang Qing, the book showed her as a strange blend of hypochondria, histrionics, jealousy, self-indulgence and vulgarity masquerading as elegance.

With Dr Witke's book (*Comrade Chiang Ching*) at their elbow, few writers on Chinese affairs found it hard to believe why she was so hated. There are good reasons to believe she hated men because she and her mother were maltreated by her father, and because as a young actress in Shanghai she was exposed to lewd male gossip. It may be no coincidence that in Mao—as testified by people who knew him before the War—she found a certain effeminacy more to her liking than the more macho-inclined officers of the Red Army.

Certainly, around the time when Dr Witke met her, she surrounded herself with female attendants—two of whom turned out to denounce her at the trial.

Apparently she genuinely believed she was a born revolutionary, though her tastes were incurably petty bourgeois and her military role was mainly imaginary. From the time she married Mao about 1940, until the mid 1960s, she more or less adhered to the promise extracted by Mao's comrades before the marriage: that she would never interfere in politics. It is a moot point whether her increasing involvement in stage, cinema and operatic work in the 1950s and 60s really constituted such interference. In view of the appalling condition to which she consigned China's modern cultural life from 1960 on, the party elders might feel they would have done better to ban her from that kind of activity, rather than from politics.

She has had a long-standing hatred of the elegant Mme Wang Guangmei, wife of Liu Shaoqi, who was head of state until his overthrow and death in prison. Mme Wang is back in circulation again, and it would be not entirely surprising, given the Chinese appreciation of irony, if Jiang Qing had been assigned to the same solitary cell she occupied in the Qincheng maximum security prison near Peking. Though not beautiful in middle age—her cheeks became pouchy and drooped, disguising the prettiness of her youth—Jiang Qing exuded sex in a way some women in their 60s can. She was full of mannerisms, and often affected a prancing gait. After the khaki-cap-and-trousers period of the early cultural revolution, she took to wearing long black dresses.

She tried, it is alleged, to suppress the national costumes of China's minorities—Mongols, Tibetans and others. And she devised a summer dress for the women of Peking, who, unlike their counterparts in Shangai, were mostly too cautious to wear it. It is with Jiang Qing's departure from the fashion design scene that women all over the country now dare to wear smart dresses and above-the-knee skirts in warm weather.

What of her "reform" of the Chinese opera? A few of the nine works approved for general showing in the cultural revolution contained exciting dances and acrobatics, and the oddly strangled singing of Peking opera was retained, even in the dramatization of modern or revolutionary themes.

But Peking opera is nothing without the fantastic costumes and make-up, the extravagant gestures, and the revelling in plain human situations only vaguely related to politics—and few people here are mourning the departure of *The Red Lantern* or *The Red Detachment of Women*.

Perhaps the most unattractive aspect of Jiang Qing's personality was her callousness—an attribute she shared with Mao. Ruined lives, suicides and family grief seemed to mean nothing to her once she was embarked on her witch-hunt of "revisionists and renegades". Obviously she was taking her revenge for something, whether her father's brutality, or the cold shoulder she was given by party veterans, is not clear.

When Jiang Qing dared the special court to execute her in public, she may even have been serious. For a person of her temperament, prison life may be a worse fate than death. Nobody seriously expects her to be executed in two years' time on grounds of failure to "repent". The question arises whether Chinese society as at present constituted could tolerate any woman in as high a position as she eventually gained (dreaming even of succeeding Mao as party chairman, it has been claimed). The politburo can consider itself graced by the self-effacing and dignified Mme Deng Yingchao, Chou en-Lai's widow. But the only other woman in that august body is Chen Muhua Muhua, a foreign aid specialist who has never risen far and has been under political attack.

The proportion of women members in the Central Committee and the National People's Congress is tiny. Mme Soon, Ching-Ling nonagenarian widow of Sun Yat-Sen, is a living reminder of the high hopes of the feminist movement in the early Kuomintang period. The vast majority of working women today are labourers, shop assistants, teachers, nurses and a fair sprinkling of doctors.

The pent-up rage which one sensed in Jiang Quing then may not have been entirely a result of paranoia or simple vengefulness. She is an electrifying woman when in action—as shown so vividly in her courtroom tactics. But underneath the fireworks there may be, or may once have been, a genuine indignation at the fate of women in China, the historic home of footbinding and the anti-feminist confucian creed.

David Bonavia

Drawing by Richard Cole

Bernard Levin

They're very big in Limehouse

The announcement that leading *members of the Labour right are to* found a Social-Democratic Discussion Circle and Weekend Hiking Club (with jam-making demonstrations every Wednesday afternoon seems to me the most momentous political news to break in this country since bicycle-clips and zinc baths were zero-rated for VAT. Moreover, the policy document they have drawn up—it includes such stunning body-blows to complacency and traditional thought as more decentralization and a good hard look at EEC policy—is so sensational in its implications that it would hardly be too much to say that British politics will never be the same again; indeed, if the group had only nerved themselves (but I do see that it's easy for me to criticize, since I don't have to be out there in the firing-line having bits of blotting-paper thrown at me) to come out in favour of unsalted butter and to refuse to commit themselves at present to the proposal for a national register of dealers in postage-stamps, it would have been the most epoch-making publication since the late Neville Blond's *History of the Rubber-Proofed Clothing Industry*.

Now, at last, it is clear that there can be no turning back, that the die is cast and the Rubicon crossed. For the word has gone out from Dr Owen's house in one of the more soigné areas of Limehouse that should the Labour Party as it is at present constituted do certain unspecified but unacceptable things, then all of them—Mr Jenkins, Mrs Williams, Mr Rodgers, Dr Owen and the rest—without mincing words, heedless of their own political future and abandoning all restraint, will *consult together on their most appropriate course of action*.

It must be clear that we are here dealing with men and women who are outside the common run of politicians; not for nothing has it been said of Mr Jenkins that just before Nature made him, she broke the mould. These people scorn the weasel words of a Harold Wilson, the back-stairs fixing of a James Callaghan, the all-things-to-all-men approach of a Michael Foot; they go down the line for truth and democracy, and are not afraid to say that *disturbing tendencies have been observed in the drift of Labour Party policy*. You will not believe me—you will think I riffled through the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* until I found something appropriate—but I swear that as I heard the news of this historic, nay momentous, decision, there came unbidden to my mind the great rallying-call ("Once more out of the breach") of Henry V:

In peace there's nothing so becomes a man,
As modest stillness and humility;
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,
Then imitate the action of the tiger:
Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood,
And have a jolly good discussion on
What *we* should do if *they* should go too far,
Without, of course, forgetting to bemoan
The shocking price that claret's fetching now
Because of all the bloody Japanese.

But what this dauntless band have done so far is as nothing to what they intend for the future. Once again, Jack ("Scoops") Levin has beaten all his rivals; the moment I heard that the vital meeting was taking place *chez* Owen I hastened thither disguised as a TV repair-man, come to fix the aerial. Once on the roof, it was the work of a moment to *slip* down the chimney and, wedged only a few feet above the fireplace, to hear all that transpired.

Thus, I am in a position to reveal that contingency plans have been laid for almost any eventuality. For instance, it was unanimously and enthusiastically agreed that if the Labour Party manifesto for the next election should include a proposal for Britain to leave Nato, the group would *take steps*, and if the manifesto should go even further and promise that a Labour Government, after leaving Nato, should then join the Warsaw Pact, they *would have a thing or two to say about it*.

Nor was that all; indeed, that was trivial to what came after. Even as the words were spoken I wrote them down—I still have the soot on my notebook to prove it—and I can now disclose that should a Labour prime minister appoint Mr Ernie Roberts Minister of Defence, Mrs Renée Short Foreign Secretary and Mr Alex Kitson Ambassador to the United States, the members of the Alliance for Social Democracy will, almost before a month is out, *consider their position*. More; if a plan for the nationalization, without compensation, of all private property should be put forward in the manifesto, they would *regret its inclusion*, and if a Labour government, elected on such a platform, should announce that it intended to put the plan into effect, they would *urgently request the government to think again*.

And even that does not exhaust the roll-call of courageous stands. I nearly fell into the drawing-room with excitement and admiration when I heard the group agree, nem con, that if a future Labour government should bring in legislation to censor the press, they would *find it difficult, if not impossible, to see any merit in the plan*.

By now the group had thrown away their scabbards and passed (I think the striking phrase was Dr Owen's) the "point of no return". For not content with the ringing declarations of principle I have so far recorded, they drew up plans for swift and effective action as well. If legislation providing for imprisonment without trial were to be introduced by a Labour government, for instance, they would *make a stink about it*, and if that were followed by a further Bill seeking powers for the government to suspend Parliament indefinitely and rule by decree they are pledged to *work with others in opposition to the measure*. The abolition of the House of Lords would be *deplored*; that of the monarchy *criticized outright*; and that of freedom of worship *firmly rebuked*.

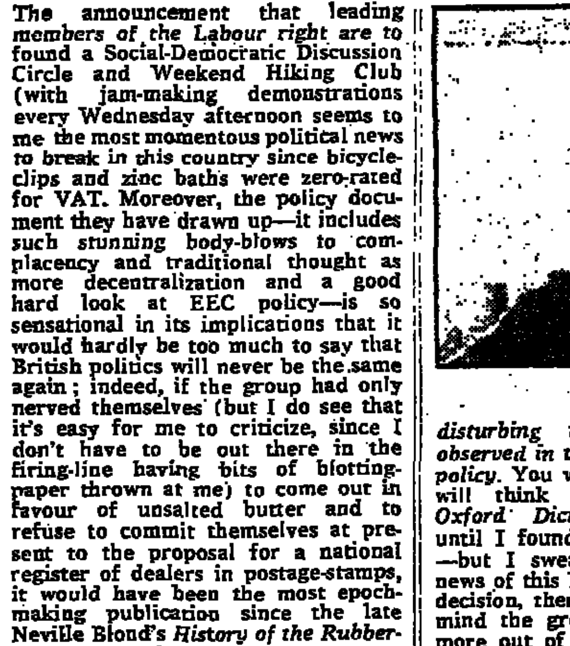
A long and scintillating discussion then followed, in which the group hammered out an agreement on what their role should be during a general election. The argument was eventually narrowed down to two choices; should they be, at an election, *concerned observers* or *anxious spectator*? For a long time, I was convinced that no agreement would be possible, so strongly held (and evenly balanced) were the rival views. But then the wise and moderating influence of Mr Jenkins made itself felt, and the whole group eagerly embraced his suggestion that in the event of an election they should declare that they *were awaiting the outcome with more than ordinary interest*.

And so it went on, all through the afternoon, while I, the discomfort of my position forgotten in the feeling that I was present at history in the making, filled notebook after notebook (I had stuffed every pocket full of spares) with the astounding decisions being made in my hearing.

The group pledged themselves, in the event of a Labour government insisting on compulsory education in *Marxism for all five-year-old school-children*, to *disagree*; the replacement of the present Chiefs of Staff by leading members of the Militant Tendency would be *vigorously denounced*; the advent of a one-party state would be *declared a black day for Britain*.

My deadline was approaching; I realized that it would be the height *of irony if*, in waiting to see what else would transpire at this historic encounter, I failed to get into the paper what I had already discovered. So, with great reluctance, I clambered up the chimney on to the roof again, slid down a rainwater-pipe and hastened off to be, once *more*, first with the news. But as it happens, I think I must have left just as the meeting *was about to end, for the* last sound I heard coming from the house as I began my dash to the office was that of music; taking a leaf out of the book of the left, with its custom of singing The Red Flag, the fearless group who had already so notably lashed out for democracy were concluding a fine day's work with a spirited rendering of that haunting Lennon/McCartney number

He's a real Nowhere Man,
Sitting in his Nowhere Land,
Making all his nowhere plans for nobody.
Doesn't have a point of view,
Knows not where he's going to,
Isn't he a bit like you and me?



Four across the Rubicon: Mr Rodgers, Mrs Williams, Mr Jenkins and Dr Owen.

The battle hotting up over who is 'British'

Today, for the third time this century, the House of Commons will grapple with the fundamental question of what it means to be British. This time there will be a real battle between the two major parties.

The Government's Nationality Bill, which will replace the 1948 Act, has angered many people of widely differing views because, effectively, it puts British citizenship on a racial basis.

The Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, the ethnic minority groups, including the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the civil liberties lobby say the Bill is racialist and will create more, not less, uncertainty.

One of the Bill's most outspoken critics, the born-again Labour Party which has decided under the leadership of Mr Roy Hattersley, home affairs spokesman, to end the consensus that once existed on this issue, also says the Bill is sexist.

Such criticisms it must be said, marks something of a conversion for Labour—perhaps the result of being safely in opposition again. The previous government would almost certainly have steered through a Bill to create a second class of British citizenship, if the Green Paper of 1977 is anything to go by, which would have left large numbers of mainly non-white people effectively stateless.

Labour's record on immigration has been almost identical to the Conservatives. It introduced stringent controls and reneged on Britain's commitment to the East African Asians who had United Kingdom passports. Only a small number were allowed here. However, the party may well be changing its tune, and the fact that Mr Hattersley is prepared to say he regrets having voted for the 1968 Immigration Act is a positive sign.

Today the Opposition will be arguing fiercely against the Government's proposals in the Second Reading debate. And in March Labour activists and others will take to the streets to demonstrate against the Bill.

Critics say the Bill incorporates racial immigration restrictions, introduced when the sun was setting on the British empire, into nationality law. Henceforth whether someone can live in this country and on what conditions will depend on his or her citizenship category.

The three new categories of citizenship are largely but not wholly racial. Only (mainly white) British citizens will have a right to live here. The other two groups (British Overseas Citizens and Citizens of the British Dependent Territories) will have no right of entry. They include those in East Africa and Malaysia who chose to be British at independence, and the present inhabitants of colonies like Hongkong.

So why call these people British at *all*? Why give them "British" passports which they cannot use to enter this country.

The whole question of rights to vote and to hold public office which normally go with citizenship is virtually ignored in the Bill, even for British citizens. A passport can be withheld on *government discretion*. The Government's White Paper on the subject referred to such rights as "privileges". This has been criticized for being one of the most depressing aspects of the Bill which is, after all, making British nationality law for decades to come.

There has always been a preference here for administrative discretion over judicially enforceable rights and this Bill enhances it. The most controversial aspect, the removal of the right for children born here to be automatically British, leaves the Home Office to decide on that child's nationality.

It says that to be British at birth one or other of your parents has to be "ordinarily resident" here at the time. Although this departs from seven centuries of legal tradition, it will augment the Home Secretary's discretionary power. The legal meaning of "ordinarily resident" is less than clear.

The Government's attempt to make things difficult for the children of students and temporary residents seems likely to be more trouble than it is worth. The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants says this is a mean provision which will affect very few people but will cause considerable anxiety. One way round it would be for parents who know they are not ordinarily resident to "lose" their children. Foundlings will be presumed to be British.

Another criticism is that parents who become British by naturalization may not pass on their citizenship automatically to their children who are born outside the United Kingdom. Now they can. The new provision will catch mainly non-white people.

> Labour's record on immigration has been almost identical to the Conservatives' —it introduced stringent controls and reneged on Britain's commitment to the East African Asians who had United Kingdom passports . . .

There are, nevertheless, some good things in the Bill. First, it allows dual nationality about which Labour's Green Paper was ambivalent; second, it ends the present sex discrimination whereby children born abroad can only inherit British nationality through their father and not their mother.

The Government appears likely to forstall the critics by pushing the Bill through as quickly as possible. Already it has rejected a request for committee hearings to which outsiders could give evidence. This is a pity. It may not be in its best interests to ignore the criticisms and anxieties in view of this country's European and international human rights commitments. It may be found wanting at a later date.

Lucy Hodges

Asian immigrants at Heathrow.

LONDON DIARY

It should be all Greek to you . . .

In a world in which the news fluctuates between chaos, catastrophe and a permanent state of chassis, at least one piece of good news can be chalked up to 1981: Greece has joined Europe.

Correction: that is an eccentric and hybristic way of putting it. Greece originally was Europe, and the cow-girl Europa who hitched a lift on a passing bull to Crete and glory was a Greek myth.

The Greek roots of our own beloved English language stick out like old marble crags from the preceding paragraphs. As Greece has slipped almost unnoticed into the EEC, I thought we should celebrate her accession to the Nine, making them the Ten, with one of my celebrated and ever-popular competitions.

But there is a difference. This time, thanks to a burst of Aegean generosity, I am able to offer a prize so glittering that it smacks of the kind of *readers'* contest they run in on eof the less expensive newspapers with which we may shortly have some association. However the subject matter is distinctly up-market.

I invite idle readers to compose a suitable celebratory encomium on Greece's entry to the EEC using only English words derived from Greek.

For example, if you happen to be writing about monetarism (and who isn't these days?) you could say: It is Zeus's anathema on our epoch for the dynamism of our economics and the heresy of our economic *methods and policies that we* should agonize between the Scylla of numismatic plethora and the Charybdis of economic anaemia.

Two hundred words maximum, please, in prose or verse, and a blind eye will be turned on prepositions, articles and other nuts and bolts of English that are not directly derived from Greek. The winner will be the crafty PhilHellene who submits the most amusing, engaging, inspiriting and appropriate piece.

Now the good news. The first prize will be a week's holiday for two in Greece, with all expenses paid by Olympic Holidays, and I dare say introductions to Bacchus, Aphrodite and any other Olympians to taste.

Has the Inner London Education Authority introduced capital punishment in schools to replace the cane? Leah Harvey of Roehampton saw this sign on a door at Marlborough School, London SW3, where they appear to have serious problems of discipline.

The second prize will be a copy of L. R. Palmer's magisterial (and expensive) book *The Greek Language*.

The judges, whose decision will be final and no doubt controversial, after they have been tyrannized by so much hellenic phraseology, will be: Sir David Hunt, Hellenophile extraordinary and master mind; Eleni Cubitt of the Greek Embassy; and my colleague Philip Howard, literary editor and senior classics master of *The Times*.

Entries to me by next Wednesday, February 4, please, and kindly mark them "Greek contest". I shall reveal the winners and their work in this space on Shrove Tuesday, March 3.

Off the beam

Ardent admirers of the BBC's World Service radio programmes have formed an appreciation society to try to ensure that the broadcasts continue to be audible in Britain when a new transmitter to beam the service around the globe is erected on the Suffolk coast next year.

The World Service is really intended for foreigners, and is paid for out of the annual Foreign Office grant which maintains all the BBC external services from Bush House in the Strand. But the quality of its programmes, which are much less biased towards British news and views than are the domestic radio services, has won it a substantial following in Britain. The BBC estimates a regular World Service audience of about 100,000 in this country; others claim that the figure is much higher, and is artificially depressed by the BBC to avoid embarrassing Radios One to Four.

At present the World Service (463 metres medium wave; details daily on our penultimate page) is beamed from a transmitter at Crowborough, Sussex, and can be heard loud and clear in most parts of Britain, particularly since the domestic radio wavelengths were switched around two years ago. But the BBC intends to boost its reception in distant parts by building a new directional transmitter at Orford Ness, which will send most of the sound waves away from our own shores.

Work on the new transmitter will begin later this year, and the old one in Sussex will be closed down in 1982.

Jerry Lewis, a freelance journalist who has founded the World Service Appreciation Society, told me: "We hope it is not too late to persuade the BBC to change the design of their new transmitter, or to leave the old one in use.

"The World Service's mix of programmes is second to none, and its news coverage, especially foreign news, is the best. Its in-depth programmes on the news, like *Outlook*, *Analysis* and *Assignment*, cannot be bettered."

Nicholas Ridley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, assured the Commons in 1979 that the World Service would continue to be audible in Britain, but Lewis and his fellow appreciants are not so sure. They have the backing of a number of MPs, including Greville Janner and James Dempsey.

"Shall we give a dinner or brunch to discuss leaving the Labour Party?"

Marc

The BBC told me yesterday that they welcomed Lewis's interest, but they refused to commit themselves, except to claim that with the new transmitter the World Service would still be audible in the South-east, but signals further north would be of "adequate or lesser quality". Signals from the appreciation society are being beamed loud and clear towards the Strand.

Silly clots

A private member's Bill introduced by Sir Anthony Meyer, MP for West Flintshire, to amend our extraordinarily complex shop hours legislation has turned the spotlight anew on the anomalies with which it is crammed, and excited a full-page advert in *The Times* last week.

Did you know, for example, that it is legal to sell cream on Sundays but not tinned cream unless the tinned cream is clotted? Surely, you might object, if clotted cream was subjected to the tinning process, it would no longer be clotted but ruined.

Quite right, the Dairy Trade Federation and Milk Marketing Board confirm, but the exemption was made to cover the sale of clotted *cream in tins*, as often happens in the West Country, to protect its passage through the post. Holiday-makers had to be allowed to buy clotted cream on Sundays to post to their friends.

Fine, and of course the schedules to the Shops Act do also specifically permit the transaction *of post office business* on Sundays, But there is, as far as is known, now only one Post Office which actually opens on Sundays, and that is in Trafalgar Square, London, which is not a likely source of clotted cream. Down in the fertile West Country Sunday post is a thing of the past.

Linguistic vandalism from Wolverhampton Council, which has changed the name of its anti-vanlalism committee to "the urban conservation and environmental awareness working party".

Alan Hamilton

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THE PRESSURE OF EVENTS

Sir Keith Joseph's statement on British Leyland is something of a milestone in the development of the Government's industrial policy. When it first came to office it held out the promise of a coherent and distinct strategy. There was to be a rapid end to subsidy of lame duck public enterprise. As much as possible of industry in the public sector was to be offered back to the private sector, a process for which the term privatization was *coined. Meanwhile, the new* growth in the economy was to come from the revitalized private sector itself, liberated from the disincentives of high personal taxation and from the restraints of dividend and foreign exchange controls.

In this as in other areas the Government has found that, even if the policy is right in principle, the problems which it is designed *attack are much more intractable* than was at first supposed. The announcement of a further huge injection of public money into British Leyland yesterday, giving the company what it required to continue with its latest corporate plan, is evidence of that fact. Under the pressure of events, faced with rising unemployment, there was in the event no option but to provide the necessary finance to prevent the company having to cease trading.

There is an unhappy irony about the fact that it is Sir Keith Joseph, one of the most intellectually rigorous of Mrs Thatcher's ministers, who is as a spending minister presiding over the most ad hoc and uncoordinated series of industrial rescue operations, all of them in straight contradiction of his originally professed industrial strategy. As it approaches the middle of its first term of office the Government in the light of experience might do well to reconsider its strategic goals in *this important area of policy.*

Such a reappraisal would have to start from the acceptance that the public sector will inevitably remain a substantial part of the British industrial economy for the foreseeable future. It is wrong to assume, as the Government and the Prime Minister herself tended to do at the start, that the public sector is incapable of behaving commercially and increasing its efficiency. *Instead* of mentally writing the whole of the public sector off as a bad job, industrial policy in this area should be a coordinated attempt to introduce and increase the pressures for a more commercially oriented development of the public sector industries.

In particular areas the breaking of the monopoly position of certain state industries could help here. So could the breaking up of giant businesses, like British Leyland or the British Steel Corporation into smaller operating businesses. In this way it would in future be easier to run down hopeless loss-making operations and concentrate on areas of promise. The introduction of joint ventures between state industries and private enterprise should also be actively explored in this context. Financial performance targets should be set and monitored in order to measure improved performance and to restore to the managements of state enterprises the *sense of commercial purpose.*

In general, the direct control of state owned industrial concerns should be kept at one remove from Whitehall. All the experience of the past twenty years and more is that civil servants are not the right people to take detailed and day-to-day industrial and financial decisions in a commercial context. Here the decision to remove the *British* Leyland shareholding from the National Enterprise Board and to transfer it to the Department of Industry, in imitation of the transfer of the Government's shareholding in Rolls-Royce, is a step in the wrong direction. Increased commercial discipline should be the order of the day so far as the public sector is concerned, not more direct political and bureaucratic interference in the running of industries that in any event pose enough problems of their own.

WHAT FUTURE FOR THE SIXTH FORM?

By 1993 the number of young people who have passed the legal minimum school leaving age but are still under 20 will be smaller *by a quarter than it is today.* Sixth form provision will have to adapt to meet this change, as services for younger children are already doing. Because the sixth form is a more sensitive political issue, the prospect is already causing uncertainty and conflict among teachers and local councillors. The Macfarlane report, published yesterday, was intended to give policy makers a guide to which of the several possible courses would best suit their own circumstances. Unfortunately the political issues have proved so sensitive that the report, after a series of much-leaked drafting crises, reads more like one more summary of the problems than a guide to their resolution.

This is especially disappointing to the more extreme proponents of the two main rival answers—the traditional sixth form, on one side, and the sixth form college on the other. But while the report's failure to give clearer guidance must be regretted, it is no bad thing that it has not thrown its weight dogmatically on either side. It is clear that the problems faced in different areas are very *diverse (some authorities even* expect to have more students of sixth form age in ten years, not fewer). Different areas will need different solutions, and will perceive the situation differently, and central government should not seek to prescribe in a rigid or doctrinaire fashion.

The fall in pupil numbers will make it impossible for many comprehensive schools to provide a sufficiently wide range of courses economically. The problem already exists: a good sixth form should have at least 140 pupils, but more than a third of existing ones are already smaller than 50. In cities, many schools have mitigated the effects of change by making informal arrangements to share sixth-form provision. This can work well in the short term, but the scale of the approaching change is so great that education authorities everywhere should be preparing long-term plans to adapt, and ensuring that they are widely known and debated.

The most popular radical solution is the separate sixth-form college. There are now 105 of them, and a recent survey showed that their A-level results are slightly better than those of ordinary sixth forms. They are popular with students, especially those who feel that they have outgrown school discipline, and there is evidence that students there move more readily on to *further education.* The release from discipline is not always an advantage, but in many areas, especially large cities, sixth-form colleges will seem the natural answer.

Their effect on the "beheaded" comprehensive schools may not, however, be so good. The sense of community and continuity in these schools may be weakened, and the Inspectors of Schools have noted a tendency for them to suffer their own difficulties about presenting a broad curriculum and attracting specialist teachers, who prefer to have some work with sixth forms. The same might be true if schools were "beheaded" so that one or two others in the neighbourhood could enjoy a sixth form.

In general, as many schools as possible should be enabled to maintain their own sixth-form provision, with formal sharing arrangements where necessary. The Government should try again soon to assist education authorities to identify where this should be attempted. The whole debate should take place in the light of the fact that education after the age of sixteen in Britain is no matter for complacency. Fewer young people here than in most comparable countries continue their studies beyond sixteen, and the effects of this on our national competitiveness must be significant. The problem must be approached not *only in terms of maintaining* standards, but also of improving them.

THE CHALLENGE TO PRESIDENT GISCARD

M Mitterrand looks better placed to win the French presidential election than he did only a few months ago. He has succeeded in overcoming the divisions within his own Socialist Party, so that last Saturday's meeting, at which he was formally adopted as their presidential candidate, was an impressive display of unity. At the same time recent opinion polls have shown him closing the gap between himself and President Giscard d'Estaing—still not officially a candidate, but generally expected to be one. One poll, taken earlier this month, even had M Mitterrand ahead of M Giscard by 51 per cent to 49 per cent. Since then the same poll has shown M Giscard pulling ahead again, with 52 per cent to M Mitterrand's 48 per cent; but even so that is a significantly better showing for M Mitterrand than he was getting last autumn, and suggests that the election, to be held on April 26 and May 10, could go either way.

The surprising thing is not that President Giscard should appear to be vulnerable, but that he should have appeared so strong for so long. He will, after all, have been in office for seven years and, though the French standard of living has risen during that time, the economy has run into difficulties over the past year or two. Unemployment is up to one and a half million, and inflation was 13.6 per cent last year. There have also been a number of scandals, not least the allegation that M Giscard had himself been given diamonds *by the Emperor Bokassa of the* Central African Empire. Even so, the assumption until recently was that he would be reelected quite easily. He still may. He is likely to attract more support once he has launched his own campaign. He will have enormous advantages as the incumbent, and many French voters may hesitate at the last moment at the thought of electing a President from the left.

Much will depend on the attitude of the Communist Party. In the last presidential election, in 1974, M Mitterrand was the joint candidate of the Socialist and Communist Parties—and came very near to winning. But since then the Communists have broken with the Socialists, and there are suspicions that whatever they say about the unity *of the Left they would rather see* M Giscard reelected than have M Mitterrand and a triumphant Socialist Party in power. At any rate M Marchais, the secretary general, will be the Communist candidate in the first round, and has been exchanging abuse with M Mitterrand. It is not certain that the Communists will throw their weight behind M Mitterrand in the second round.

Even if they do not, however, it need not necessarily hurt M Mitterrand because he is following a different strategy from that of 1974. This year, in addition to getting votes from *the Left, he is hoping to pick up* support in the second round from disaffected Gaullists. He has even dissociated himself from much of the party manifesto adopted by the Socialists last weekend; and he could point to lack of support from the Communists as proof that he would not be indebted to them either. Yet as the only leftist candidate he would be bound to get some *Communist votes, whatever the* party's instructions.

If M Mitterrand is elected, it will be the biggest change in French political life since 1958, when General de Gaulle came to power and laid the foundations of the Fifth Republic. He himself has been unwilling to say whether he would have Communists in his government. He has confined himself to undertaking to dissolve the National Assembly, with its Giscardian and Gaullist majority, and to hold new legislative elections, with a view to getting a new majority that he would work with. It would be a test of the constitution of the Fifth Republic: whether it could accommodate a change of this nature.

Closer relations

From Mr Anthony Wigram

Sir, Now that the basic principles governing industrial relations are once again under discussion, should we not consider the system which seems to have been so successful in Japan based on lifetime employment by a single firm?

It *is* easy to see why such a system should be successful because it puts the interests of the firm and the workers fairly and squarely on the same footing. Both are locked together for better or worse and must get the best out of each other so that each gets more by slicing a bigger cake rather than fighting for a larger share of a smaller one.

From the worker's point of view, the more successful the firm the better off he becomes, and because the fear that his own hard work and greater productivity will threaten his job or that of his friends is removed, it stands to reason that he is much more likely to cooperate with schemes for modernization and retraining. Restrictive practices cease to be logical.

From the point of view of the firm the commitment to lifetime employment acts as a spur to use employees imaginatively and profitably. Problems which we may now try and solve by declaring redundancies have to be solved by diver*sification, new investment,* and suchlike entrepreneurial skills—which is what justifies management anyway, and what it can achieve given the necessary loyalty and confidence from its employees.

From the point of view of trade unions the greatest source of grievance, unemployment, would be largely removed and they could begin to start to identify interests and objects held in common with *management.*

Most people are more likely to be generous, agreeable and cooperative if they have a sense of security, and it is quite clear that this kind of security is not engendered by state-paid unemployment benefits, which are inadequate in all respects as well as being incredibly wasteful of skill and expensive to operate. Would it not be far better to give firms the responsibility to continue to give employment in difficult times, and to continue to use their labour as best they can, rather than to transfer this burden to the Government, which has no means of alleviating the harmful and demoralizing effect of redundancy?

The pruning and grooming proposed in the Government's Green Paper are not going to achieve any fundamental change in industrial relations and indeed are not designed to do so. We need a bold stroke to change the whole environment, and lifetime employment must at least be worth thinking about.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY WIGRAM,
6 Queen Street,
Mayfair, W1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Breath test controls

From Mr T. E. Rymer

Sir, One little noticed effect of the Transport Bill now before Parlia*ment is that in the* vast majority of cases of persons suspected of having driven motor vehicles with excess alcohol in their body the analytical evidence of this for production on behalf of the prosecution will be obtained by a police constable at a police station using a sophisticated modern analytical instrument to determine the alcohol content of a breath specimen.

Under these circumstances there will be no opportunity for a motor*ist to have an independent analysis* made, except in the very limited event where the breath test gives a reading of between 40 and 50 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath, ie except in the limited circumstances when the breath test gives a reading only a little over the proposed limit of 40 microgrammes per 100ml.

Any competent professional analyst is only too well aware of how modern sophisticated analytical *techniques can suddenly produce* false results and such an analyst will recognise when results are suspect. I am utterly appalled that the police, with limited training, are to be given the power to conduct such tests for evidential use with, in the majority of cases, no possibility of further checks being carried out. At present, of course, they must be when evidence relies on the analysis of divided specimens of blood or urine in all prosecutions, and frequently are when samples are taken for the purpose of the Food and Drugs Act and the Agriculture Act, etc.

In my opinion any motorist who suspects that the breath test has given a false result should be given the option to provide blood or urine specimens for subsequent analysis. This option should also in fairness be available to the police and the Bill should be amended accordingly, if possible gross injustice is not to result.

Yours faithfully,
T. E. RYMER,
(Public Analyst, East and West Sussex),
The Analytical Laboratory,
7 Offham Road,
Lewes, Sussex.
January 21.

Side-effects of drugs

From Professor M. J. S. Langman

Sir, Much time is now spent trying to achieve a balance between the safety and efficacy of drugs. None is entirely safe (unless useless), nor entirely effective. This simple message is very poorly understood and your report, "Sex warning on some drugs" (January 19) is an excellent example of how not to inform.

To say "Some tranquillizers, sedatives . . . could reduce the sexual drive in some people" is about as useful a statement as, "Some people who ride bicycles could fall off and hurt themselves". The information not given (how often, how severe will be the injury and in what circumstances will it occur) is essential to any proper understanding.

No one could be greatly surprised that medicines which tend to send people to sleep reduce sexual activity. What does matter is whether such an action is sufficiently important to limit drug usage. *Surprisingly, sadly, or reassuringly,* however one looks at it, the effect does not seem to be very important, but proper education about the effects of drugs is.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. S. LANGMAN,
Department of Therapeutics,
City Hospital, Nottingham.

The Pope in Britain

From the Reverend Francis Edwards

Sir, Dr A. C. J. Phillips (January 19) doubtless well understands that the Roman Catholic attitude with regard to the Mass and those who celebrate and communicate at the same rests on grounds of theology and history and not on any desire merely to be exclusive or exclude. Undoubtedly, however, he has a point, at least of interpretation, when he reminds us that a Mass said in Canterbury Cathedral could become not "a means of reconciliation but an affront to those denied participation". If we wish to stress the very real differences still remaining among Christians, the best way would be to celebrate the Mass. If we wish to stress the common ground, the better idea would be to devise a non-eucharistic service in which not only Catholics, and Anglicans of whatever persuasion, but also Noncomformists could take part without embarrassment or affront to conscience.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS EDWARDS,
Department of Historiography and Archives,
English Province of
The Society of Jesus,
114 Mount Street, W.1.

Implications of Labour's decision

From Lord Underhill

Sir, The decision of the Labour Party special conference for the 30—30—40 formula was arrived at only because of the incomprehensible attitude taken by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. That union wanted the Parliamentary Labour Party to have 75 per cent of the votes at an electoral college; when it failed with that motion the union then abstained. If it had voted for the 50—25—25 formula, which was the next best, there would have been a majority of over 500,000 for that proposal.

It is stated also that the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, with 425,000 votes, varied its previous view and put forward a motion for 30—30—40, by a decision of its executive committee, and that the National Union of Public Employees' delegation decided on a switch of support.

Such a position could arise at an electoral college. Should a union abstain because a first vote did not go its way, or there was a switch of support by a union executive committee or conference delegation, *such a travesty of democracy could* affect the election of a party leader or even a Prime Minister. That would be a travesty for both Labour Party and parliamentary democracy.

Throughout my 50 years' membership of the Labour Party I have consistently refused to link up with any grouping. Others have not shared that concern and there have been pressures exerted by the Campaign for Party Democracy (which sees "one man, one vote" to be undemocratic!), the Co-ordinating Committee, and latterly the Mobilising Committee, which includes the Trotskyist Militant Tendency.

Nothing will be gained by leaving the Labour Party. However, we must work for changes. Therefore, it is my intention to now associate in my parliamentary work with the *Manifesto* Group and outside with the Campaign for Labour Victory on the understanding that it will *work within the Labour Party to* reverse the present position, as it has every right to do.

I regard this not as a struggle between "left and right", but a matter of democracy and commonsense. I now hope that other Labour Party members will do likewise.

Yours sincerely,
UNDERHILL,
House of Lords.
January 25.

From Mr Michael Pickering

Sir, I have been a member of the Labour Party since 1952 and am broadly in favour of such things as state control of important industries, worker participation to the extent (in some cases) of workers' control, comprehensive education, state medicine, municipalization of housing, and redistribution of wealth through direct taxation; moreover, I oppose the siting of nuclear weapons in this country and regard our entry into the EEC as having been a mistake bordering upon disaster.

Obviously, therefore, my sympathy with Sir Leslie Murphy (January 21) in his despair with the Labour Party and his desire for a radical alternative cannot be ascribed purely and simply to the party's move to the left.

No, my disenchantment with the party for which I've worked for so many years arises because its present leftward movement has an almost Cadarene quality, uninformed by any *sense of history* or understanding of democratic processes, and based on a romantic and patronising view of what the workers want.

Karl Marx was essentially a realist and knew that for a movement to succeed there must be a groundswell of discontent and of sympathy for its aim springing from people as they actually are and not after they have been lectured *de haut en bas* by people claiming to know better.

Had he been alive today he would have been among the first to note (as Marcuse did) that nowadays people are different; unfortunately, he is no longer in a position to disabuse the earnest army of self-styled disciples who utter absurdities in his name.

Where in the past the Labour Party has been strong and successful this has happened by virtue, first, of its capacity to contain within itself a richness of differing viewpoints and, second, of its flair for knowing when to advance and when simply to consolidate its gains. It is now busying itself with easing out of its ranks those of its members, at all levels, who have brains, experience, and ability, but who suffer from the flaw of believing (for example) that MPs are representatives of all their constituents and not delegates under the control of excitable local parties, and who are sufficiently sacrilegious to want to temper conference decisions in the light of reality.

I do not believe that the Labour Party is doing anything to help the underprivileged by inflexibly insisting on the immediate implementation of aims such as those outlined above or by refusing to accept that some of them may perhaps never be realised. I have studied David Steel's 10 points and find them not only sensible but also—from the evidence of a recent opinion survey—in tune with what many people are thinking. They have much more to offer the mass of working people than has a political party that seems determined to remain in opposition, lamenting the revolution that never happened.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PICKERING,
38 Oakwood Road, NW11.

Conglomerate ministries

From Lord Houghton of Sowerby

Sir, I do not believe that the conglomerate Department of Health and Social Security (report of John Silkin's address, Whitehall brief, January 20) was put together by Sir Harold Wilson in 1968 "only to create a job suitable for Mr Richard Crossman". I urged Sir Harold to do this in 1965 when I was coordinating minister for the social services. There were problems of administration and barriers to pro*viding comprehensive* health and welfare to the people.

Above all, there were priorities to be decided. This entailed allocation of resources with inevitable choices between cash benefits and physical services. Coordination became impossible when the departmental ministers, not in the Cabinet, demanded the right to attend Cabinet meetings to dissent from their coordinator!

The Prime Minister's response to my pleading to create a "conglomerate" similar to the model of the Ministry of Defence was to create the Public Expenditure Scrutiny Committee (PESC) where departmental ministers could take their money troubles and their rivalries. All that did was to save us having them out in front of the Cabinet.

After I left the Cabinet in 1967, two successors went through similar experiences. When ministerial changes provided the opportunity of creating the "conglomerate" in 1968 two candidates were approached and both insisted on it. Crossman got the job, but I wouldn't say that the Department of Health and Social Security was made to measure for him. More likely, I think, he tried it on for size and the tailor thought it was a perfect fit.

Yours, etc,
HOUGHTON OF SOWERBY,
House of Lords.
January 20.

Jobs comforter

From Professor R. L. Plackett

Sir, Professor Mills tells us (January 23) that successive peaks in unemployment rise exponentially. If he projects them into the next century he will find that the number of people unemployed exceeds the total population.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. PLACKETT,
Department of Statistics,
The University,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Voice from the past

From Mr Denis Blakeley

Sir, I can certainly vouch for the penetrating quality of RSM Brittain's voice. On many occasions, bashing a square adjacent to his at Mons, I and my platoon obeyed his *command rather than that of our* own RSM.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS BLAKELEY,
81 Quai d'Orsay,
75007 Paris, France.

University election

From the Reverend L. R. Hobbs

Sir, Professor Mortimer's letter (January 21) aptly summarizes my own and, I suspect, many others' feelings as to the unsuitability of the three candidates for the chancellorship of London University.

I would hope, however, that there will not be a mass abstention by those eligible to vote. A far more *forceful point* would be made if there were substantial numbers of spoilt papers returned. At least then we should be able to distinguish between those who are unhappy with the arrangements and those who have just not bothered. In my own case I have added a covering note expressing my dismay at the standing committee's handling of the whole matter.

If this particular election is to be a non-event, let us ensure that the next one is not.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE R. HOBBS,
4 Oakengates,
Hanworth,
Bracknell, Berkshire.
January 22.

Economic planning effects

From Professor Lord Kaldor, FBA

Sir, Professor H. W. Singer (Janu*ary 15) has rightly drawn attention* to the dubious empirical basis of Professor Hayek's contrast (feature, January 9) between the successful capitalist free market economies and "unsuccessful" countries who remained poor, or fell into sad decline, as a result of following some form of socialism or of economic planning.

Unfortunately Professor Singer's examples do not include Professor Hayek's most glaring omission, which is none other than his own country of birth, Austria, where he spent the first 32 years of his life, the last eight of them as a successful professional economist, ending up as Director of the Austrian Institute of Economic Research.

In contrast to the period of stagnation and high unemployment between the wars which he witnessed, Austria has had since the Second World War the most successful record in terms of fast economic growth, monetary stability and continuous full employment—indeed a greater "economic miracle" than that of Germany or any other "developed" country with the exception of Japan. Her growth rate of gross domestic product per head in the period 1955-1979 was twice as high as that of Switzerland, the United States or the United Kingdom and, except for Japan, it exceeded that of France, Italy and all other "developed" countries. Her gross investment as a percentage of GDP was higher than that of all other countries except Japan and Norway. Her unemployment rate at 2.1 per cent in 1979 was lower than that of any OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) country except Norway (which was 2 per cent). *Her average rate of* inflation in the years 1966-1979 was only 5 per cent a year, which was one of the lowest among all "developed" countries. (All the above figures are from the latest 1980 edition of the official *Statistiches Handbuch* of the Republic of Austria.)

Yet Austria has been nearest among Western democracies to a socialist planned economy of the precise kind which Professor Hayek regards as most reprehensible. She had a Socialist Government ruling alone or in coalition for 30 out of the 34 postwar years. All her basic industries and her commercial banks were nationalized after the war and have remained nationalized ever since—her "public sector" is thus larger, percentagewise, than that of any other "mixed economy". She has a corporate economic structure embodied in the Constitution which provides for an elected "Chamber of Labour" (a kind of workers' parliament) as well as an elected "Chamber of Commerce" (representing the entrepreneurs). All important decisions concerning price and wage policies, budgeting and monetary policy, etc, are taken in consultation with these elected bodies and their innumerable sub*committees: there is in addition* workers' participation in management in both public and private enterprises. She is thus the prime example of a society where all decisions are arrived at by consensus reached between the different "social partners".

The single example of postwar Austria is, in my view, sufficient to blow sky-high Professor Hayek's generalizations concerning the philosophy of the Brandt report.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
King's College,
Cambridge.
January 16.

Natural History Museum plans

From Sir John Betjeman and others

Sir, It is surely ironic in this centenary year of Alfred Waterhouse's masterly Natural History Museum in South Kensington that recently Michael Heseltine, Environment Secretary, supported the recommendation of his inspector at the public inquiry permitting the demolition of a substantial part of the building. The trustees intend to replace the Eastern Galleries with a five-storey block containing new galleries, a restaurant and educational facilities.

At the inquiry, the Greater London Council submitted an alternative showing the feasibility of retaining the existing galleries and converting the non-public areas on the ground floor of the present building to provide additional exhibition space and the other facilities incorporated in the trustees' own proposals. If such a scheme were adopted not only would this splendid grade 1 listed building remain intact for the future enjoyment of countless visitors but a saving in cost would be *made of some £3m and building* work be completed in approximately three years instead of six required for the sanctioned project.

Commenting in his report on the GLC alternative, the inspector said: "I believe the problems of housing part of the public exhibition on the ground floor are capable of solution. . . . What is required is a willingness to solve the problems posed." In opting to support the trustees' proposals he admitted his decision was finely balanced.

Notwithstanding the inspector's conclusion we believe the balance to be in favour of the alternative scheme. The advantages of an approach on the principles exemplified in the GLC scheme are, we submit, overwhelming and demand a reconsideration of the present decision.

Yours etc,
JOHN BETJEMAN,
PATRICK BOYLAN,
D. T. DONOVAN,
A. R. DUFTY,
MICHAEL ROBBINS,
DAVID WATERHOUSE,
29 Radnor Walk, SW3.

Vaccine damage liability

From Mrs Rosemary Fox

Sir, When serious injury results from medical intervention, many *doctors argue that there should not* be legal action, or campaigns, to secure compensation. In their view all disability is equal and should be catered for under the state system of disability benefits.

This argument would only be acceptable if the state could afford to pay to all disabled people the amount they would be awarded in court following an accurate assessment of their needs—in which case, of course, campaigns and legal *action would cease overnight. Since* it is highly unlikely that the state will ever be able to pay disability benefits at this level, healthy individuals on whom injury is inflicted have a perfect right to pursue compensation claims based on the cause of injury to provide adequately for their needs and the law has always recognized this right.

One of the campaigns criticized by doctors *in* your columns is that for vaccine damaged children. The Pearson Commission recommended, and Parliament accepted, that they have a special claim to compensation because they have been placed at risk in the interests of the health of the public generally.

Doctors may *not* see anything unique about their disability, but the parents who produced them as healthy children, and who now suffer financial and emotional hardship do. The Government refusal to pay compensation is penalizing these families for the second time.

It would be interesting to discover if those who argue against compensation claims based on cause of injury would, if seriously injured themselves, dismiss all thought of redress and be satisfied with state benefits.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY FOX,
Secretary, Association of Parents of Vaccine Damaged Children,
2 Church Street,
Shipston-on-Stour,
Warwickshire.
January 20.

Medical redundancies

From Dr Alex Paton

Sir, The problem of medical unemployment (January 20) could be solved quite easily. Many disillusioned senior doctors know that the hospital service in particular is overmanned; they are counting the days to retirement but *cannot* afford to go early because inflation makes a nonsense of pensions based on the last three years of service.

The Government, I suspect, is well aware of the position, but is afraid to apply the concept of redundancy to the National Health Service, not because of political unpopularity but because of the exodus that would result.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX PATON,
15 Charlotte Road,
Birmingham.
January 21.

Urgent cable

From Miss Vera Watkins

Sir, With reference to Mr Easthope's account (January 22) of the death of Queen Victoria, it may not be generally known that his efforts to be first with the news were very nearly successful.

That submarine cable connecting Osborne House with the mainland broke shortly before the Queen died. My father, then a junior lieutenant, Philip Watkins, Royal Engineers, got urgent orders to repair it. The job was completed just in time.

Yours faithfully,
VERA H. WATKINS,
Silkhay Cottage,
Netherbury,
Nr Bridport,
Dorset.
January 22.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
January 26: The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, this afternoon opened the Housing Development of the Hanover Housing Association and the Guinness Trust at Dersingham (Estate Superintendent, Mr K. Brooks and Warden, Mrs J. Woodhouse).

Having been received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Norfolk (Mr Timothy Colman), The Queen unveiled a commemorative plaque and, with The Duke of Edinburgh, toured the housing scheme, escorted by the Chairman of the Hanover Housing Association (Mr H. W. Mellor) and the Chairman of the Guinness Trust (the Lady Elizabeth More O'Ferrall).

The Lady Susan Hussey, the *Right Hon Sir Philip Moore and* Mr Julian Loyd were in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
January 26: Princess Alexandra, Patron of the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust, was present this afternoon at a Reception given for representatives of the Regions and Branches within the United Kingdom at Claridge's, London.

The Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

The Duke of Kent, as patron of the British Computer Society, will attend a luncheon at the society's headquarters in London on March 16.

Birthdays today

Sir Wilfrid Bourne, 59; Lord Chelwood, 64; Sir Kenneth Corfield, 57; Sir Robert Dent, 86; Sir John Eccles, 78; Sir Neville Faulks, 73; Mr Maurice Macmillan, MP, 60; Miss Nina Milkina, 62; Mr W. R. van Straubenzee, MP, 57; General Sir Dudley Ward, 76; Lord Wells-Pestell, 71.

Mr M. MacDonald

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Malcolm MacDonald, OM, will be held in Westminster Abbey at noon on Tuesday, March 3, 1981. Applications for tickets should be made as follows: Ambassadors and High Commissioners to the Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps; others to the Secretary-General (MM), the Royal Commonwealth Society, 18 Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5BJ, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, by not later than Friday, February 20.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. T. Poynton and the Hon Finola FitzClarence
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Terence, youngest son of Mr and Mrs D. R. Poynton, of Woodford, Cheshire, and Finola Dominique, youngest daughter of Viscount FitzClarence, of Barrhead, Renfrewshire, and Mrs L. M. D. Delvigne, of Putney, London.

Mr P. G. Sharp and Miss C. L. Pinnell
The engagement is announced between Peter George, elder son of Mr and Mrs G. R. Sharp, of Perth, Western Australia, and Caroline Louise, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs M. C. Pinnell, of Winchester.

Mr V. Singh and Miss V. K. Markham
The engagement is announced between Vijay, son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Subhir Singh, of Jaipur, India, and Victoria Katharine, elder daughter of Canon and Mrs Gervase Markham, of Morland House, Penrith, Cumbria.

Captain I. A. Vere Nicoll, RA, and Miss M. J. Wormald
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs J. A. Vere Nicoll, of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, and Joanna, daughter of Dr and Mrs P. J. Wormald, of East Grimstead, *Salisbury, Wiltshire.*

Marriage

Mr M. Robertson and Mrs Y. de Pury
The marriage took place on January 23 at St Michael's, Chester Square, between Mr Michael Robertson, of The Old Mill, Oakley, Diss, Norfolk, and Mrs Yvonne de Pury, of 48 Ebury Mews, SW1.

Memorial service

Lord Wall
A memorial service for Lord Wall was held yesterday at St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield. The Rev Barry Grimster officiated, assisted by the Rev Arthur Brown. Lord Hill of Luton gave an address. Those present included:

Lady Wall (widow), the Hon Martin Wall (son), the Hon Robin and Mrs Wall (son and daughter-in-law), Mr and the Hon Mrs Hugh Walker (son-in-law and daughter), Mr Edward Wall (brother).

Lord O'Brien of Lothbury, Lord Peart (representing Labour peers), Sir George Bishop (Booker McConnell) and Lady Bishop, Sir Ernest and Lady Jones-Parry, Sir William Ryland, Sir James Dunnett, Sir Henry Hardman, Sir Joseph Lockwood, Commander R. G. How, Mr L. G. Wood, Mr and Mrs Maurice Tinniswood, Mr Malcolm Wells (chairman, Charterhouse Petroleum), Mr J. E. B. Bowman and Mr G. Hopkins (Charterhouse Development), Mr J. A. Downes (also representing the directors, Charterhouse Group), Mr Gordon Black.

Mr Philip Chappell (chairman, ICL), Mr Arthur Propper, Mr Arthur Humphreys, Mr J. K. Steward (representing chairman and directors, Laporte Industries) and Mr R. I. Hanson (secretary), Mr Alan Brooker (Extel Group), Mr P. W. Barker (chairman, Burrup Mathieson and Company), Dr S. K. Manstead (Grundy's of Teddington), Mr R. W. Archer (Unilever), Mr G. A. King and Mr T. V. Grimwood (joint managing directors, Nurdin and Peacock), Mr W. J. Butler (Combe Wood Golf Club) and Mrs Butler, Mr Eric Dolling (Food Manufacturers' Federation), Mr M. C. G. Andrews (Arthritis and Rheumatism Council), Mr H. A. Ling (Back Pain Association), Mr G. N. Bridge, Mrs R. Grundy and Mrs S. Davis.

Luncheons

HM Government
Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon in honour of the Mozambique Foreign Minister, Senhor Joaquim Alberto Chissano, held at 1 Carlton Gardens yesterday.

HM Government
Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon held in honour of the Moroccan Ambassador, at Admiralty House yesterday.

Royal Over-Seas League
The chairman of the Royal Over-Seas League, Lord Grey of Naunton, and members of the central council entertained the Commissioner for Hongkong and Mrs Ford at luncheon at Over-Seas House, St James's, yesterday.

Receptions

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister was host at a reception given at 10 Downing Street yesterday evening. Among those present were members of HM Government, inventors, industrialists, financiers, consultants, members of Parliament and representatives of government departments.

St George Dining Club
Lord Bethell, MEP, was principal guest at a reception for members of the St George Dining Club held at Terenure Country Club, Totteridge, last night. Mr Robert Brum, President of the Chipping Barnet Conservative Association, accompanied by Mrs Brum, was the host. Mr Sydney Chapman, MP, and Mrs Chapman were among others present.

Dinner

Fruiterers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, was the principal guest at a livery dinner of the Fruiterers' Company held at Plaisterers' Hall last night. The speakers were the Master, Mr W. James, the Lord Mayor, Mr R. W. Manners, Lord Greenhill of Harrow and Mr R. A. Hutchison, Clerk. The Portuguese and South African ambassadors were among the guests.

25 years ago

From The Times of Thursday, Jan 26, 1956

Fighting inflation

The chairmen of the big banks address their stockholders, and in practice the public at large, only once a year. For 12 months, until this last fortnight, the credit squeeze had been gathering force and the familiar combination of inflation and balance of payment difficulties had been going from bad to worse without any word from the leaders of the important remedial measures which were being applied. Now they have all spoken. The need for stopping inflation clearly appears to them no less urgent than it does to others less expert and informed. ... They have emphasized the permanent weaknesses which have made the economy unable to withstand the additional strains put upon it in 1955. Each has stressed the high level of public current expenditure and the large amount of capital expenditure which is financed out of public money and is thus insensitive to monetary control.

Swedish pair win bridge cup for second time

By Our Bridge Correspondent

P. Sundelin and S. Flodqvist, of Sweden, won the International Invitation Bridge Pairs Championship, sponsored by *Now!* magazine, which ended in London on Sunday after 15 rounds and four days of play.

It was the first time in its 18-year history that the cup has been won twice by the same pair, for the Swedes first won it in 1978. Two players have won the cup twice but in different partnerships: Barnet Shenkin, of Scotland, with M. Rosenberg and V. Goldberg, and Alan Sontag, of the United States, with V. Altman and P. Weichsel.

The luck of the draw brought the four leaders to the final round. Their scores then were: Sundelin 471, Moeller 470, Schapiro 462, and Granovetter 461. The Swedes beat B. Schapiro and J. Besse by 43-13 to take first place and Matt Granovetter and Neil Silverman beat the Danes by 38-22.

On the last hand of the championship, before a packed audience, Granovetter was in a doubled game contract and had he been able to make one more trick he would have tied for second place with the other American pair, J. Cayne and C. Burger. Last year's winners from Scotland never recovered from a bad start and finished in sixteenth place.

The final placings were: 1, P. Sundelin, S. Flodqvist (Sweden), 524; 2, J. Cayne, C. Burger (US), 504; 3, M. Granovetter, N. Silverman (US), 497; 4, S. Moeller, P. Schaltz (Denmark), 472; equal 5, B. Schapiro (GB), J. Besse (Switzerland), and [illegible] (Poland), 471; 7, Omar Sharif (Egypt), [illegible] (France), 461; 8, [illegible] (It), 443; 10, [illegible] (GB), 442; [illegible] (France), 438.

Grant for Lakes book

Cumbria County Council's arts and amenities committee yesterday awarded Manchester University Press a grant of £1,000 towards publishing a book, *The Lake Counties from 1830 to the mid-twentieth Century.* The grant includes £500 from the Curwen Archives Trust.

Endangered mansion: The Ivy at Chippenham, which will be discussed today by North Wiltshire District Council. The house was built about 1730 in the English Baroque style, is listed Grade 1 by the Department of the Environment and is considered a rare example of its style and period. It has been damaged by weather, dry rot and vandals, and its admirers fear that it is in grave danger of eventual demolition unless action is taken.

Today's engagements

Princess Alexandra attends luncheon at presentation of *The New Standard* Drama Awards for 1980, Savoy Hotel, 12.30.

Exhibitions: Tribute to Anna Pavlova, 1881-1931, Museum of London, 10 to 6; Prints and watercolours by Anton Krajnc, Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, 10 to 6; New paintings by Adrian Heath, Redfern Gallery, 20 Cork Street, 10 to 5.30; Sculpture with architecture, by members of Royal Society of British Sculptors, RIBA Gallery, 21 Portman Square, 11 to 5; Penny Carey, paintings, Sue Lamb, sculptures, Woodlands Art Gallery, 90 Mycenae Road, 10 to 7.30; tapestries for the nation, Victoria and Albert Museum, 10 to 5.50.

Talks: "Action to conserve resources", by Sarah Buckmaster, South Place Ethical Society, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, 7; "Southern Africa and economic cooperation", by Maurice Foley, Africa Centre, 38 King Street, 6.30; "Life between the tides", lecture hall, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, 3; "Physics of the Scottish bagpipes", by Dr L. Allan and C. D. McEwen, University College of London, 1.20.

Lunchtime music: Margaret Phillips, organ, St Lawrence Jewry, 1; Kreuzberger String Quartet, Bishopsgate Hall, 1.05; Takahi Shimizu, violin, Fairfield Hall, Croydon, 1.05.

BBC involvement in local stations to be reopened

Decision week for islands' radio

From Our Correspondent, St Peter Port

After years of discussion and negotiation, the Guernsey and Jersey parliaments will be asked to decide this week whether they want the BBC to set up local radio stations in the two islands.

Partly because it was felt that such a step would mean handing over to the United Kingdom the two medium-frequency wavelengths assigned to the Channel Islands in 1976, the broadcasting committees in Guernsey and Jersey originally recommended a commercially run Channel Islands radio station.

That proposal was rejected by MPs in both islands in favour of starting negotiations with the BBC.

However, Guernsey's broadcasting committee has reopened the question by asking the island parliament to decide tomorrow whether it wants arrangements with the BBC to be completed or would like the possibility of commercial radio to be reconsidered.

In Jersey, where the broadcasting committee is simply seeking approval today to allocate the island's wavelength to the corporation, a number of members are to make a last-minute attempt to have the earlier decision to invite in the BBC rescinded.

Guernsey's broadcasting committee believes it is justified in seeking a new mandate because the BBC has considerably reduced its offer to the Channel Islands since negotiations began.

At one time the corporation was talking of a Channel Islands station broadcasting seven and ten hours of "community programmes" daily. That was later changed to four hours a day, and because of the corporation's present financial position it is proposing to set up separate Jersey and Guernsey stations putting out "not less than an hour" of local programmes with the rest mainly from Radio 2.

That is far from what was envisaged when the islands agreed in the early 1970s to apply for a radio frequency to provide a service that would be not a mere extension of any United Kingdom local radio service but "an independent service representative of the special constitutional position of the Channel Islands".

Some local politicians also feel that the terms negotiated with the BBC fall short of the islands' original determination that ultimate control over local broadcasting should rest with the Jersey and Guernsey authorities and not in the United Kingdom.

The islands proposed that a Channel Islands broadcasting council should be set up to advise the BBC on all matters relating to its services to the islands by television and radio. The corporation had misgivings about that and argued that community radio advisory councils in the islands should be sufficient.

It has now been agreed that, if both Jersey and Guernsey opt for the BBC, the proposed council will be created, but with no autonomous powers and with all members appointed by the board of governors of the corporation.

Meanwhile, Guernsey's broadcasting committee has made clear that it believes local MPs should think seriously again about an alternative type of service.

In her report the president, Miss Valerie Renouf, writes: "During the committee's studies of local radio stations, it has been noted that a commercial station can devote a comparatively high proportion of time to programmes of local interest. The experience of the committee is that such programmes are prepared and presented in a responsible and professional manner".

The BBC has said that it will be willing to conclude an agreement with only one of the islands if the other does not want a station run by the corporation.

Buxton Festival likely to go ahead

By Martin Huckerby, Music Reporter

Despite a big deficit and the loss of its grant from the Arts Council, the Buxton Festival, in Derbyshire, seems likely to survive, although this year in a shortened form.

Mr David Hunter, the festival chairman, said that the organizers hoped that they would find enough money to stage the 1981 festival.

Founded in 1979 as something of a northern Glyndebourne, the festival had difficulty last year in attracting audience for the relatively expensive opera productions. It now has a £105,000 deficit from last year and Mr Hunter said they would try to redeem part of that however little, this year.

The organizers hope to give a definite go-ahead in the next few weeks.

German dealer pays £990 for 160 horse brasses

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

There was good news for collectors of horse brasses at Phillips yesterday when a collection of 160, split into 14 lots, were all bought by the same German dealer. They cost him £990.

It appears there is a new market developing in Germany for those highly polished anachronisms, more usually found framing the electrically glowing coals in the fireplace of a British public house.

The German dealer paid £60 for a group of five, inluding one portraying Disraeli. A group of 10 animal subjects, including a fox and a squirrel, made £40. The most expensive lot contained 15 brasses, which sold for £100.

Phillips's sale of modern pictures totalled £38,172, with 25 per cent unsold. A pretty picture of three girls, entitled "In the field", by Dame Laura Knight, was sold to Bourne for £3,200 (estimate £1,000 to £1,500). However, a Jack Yeats sketchbook of 1902 with some jolly interior and public house scenes apparently had an over optimistic owner, it was bought in at £4,000 (estimate £3,000 to £5,000).

At Sotheby's a sale of Russian works of art made £56,070, with 22 per cent unsold. That percentage was inflated by three good lots failing to sell, but a silver-gilt and shaded *cloisonné* enamel casket of rich design, made under imperial warrant and dated April 26, 1910, sold for £6,000 (estimate £5,000 to £8,000).

The University College Library spent £100 (estimate £25 to £35) on a slightly worn first American edition of Jeremy Bentham's *Defence of Usury*. It was published in Philadelphia in 1796.

Mersey church leaders' appeal

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

Church leaders in Merseyside, led by the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, and the Roman Catholic Archbishop, Mgr Derek Worlock, have appealed to the city council to increase grants to voluntary welfare organizations rather than to freeze them at last year's levels, in view of the unemployment in the area and the general social deprivation there.

The proposal to freeze the grants is to come before the council for a decision tomorrow. The churchmen said it would lead to some organizations having to close and others to cut their services.

Stamp exhibition

An exhibition demonstrating the development of British stamp designs since 1839 was opened yesterday at the Design Centre, in Haymarket, London, by Sir Hugh Casson, President of the Royal Academy.

Orchestral concerts will tour London suburbs

By Our Music Reporter

A scheme to bring orchestral concerts to the London suburbs is being started next month by the Greater London Arts Association.

A pilot tour by the City of London Sinfonia, conducted by Richard Hickox, will begin after a concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on *February 2*. The orchestra will visit Chingford, Tolworth, Hounslow, Lewisham and Croydon. The programme includes the premiere of a work by Hans Werner Henze entitled *Il Vitalino Raddoppiato*, as well as symphonies by Beethoven and Haydn and Bartok's *Divertimento*.

The association is particularly keen to increase the availability of orchestral concerts to schoolchildren and the programme has been chosen to include works in the GCE syllabus. Members of the sinfonia will also visit schools to talk about the music.

Next season, the scheme will be expanded. It is hoped to provide tours by two orchestras and three or four smaller ensembles.

Musical involvement: A different type of musical involvement for younger schoolchildren has been started this month by the English Sinfonia in Derbyshire. Groups of players from the orchestra are visiting schools in Derby and Swadlincote, inviting children to play along on simple instruments with the professionals.

The scheme is based on experimental work in London by Mr Richard McNichol, of the Apollo Trust, a flautist with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and a qualified teacher. He is directing the first year of the workshops.

Designed to engage the interest of children through participation, the scheme is aimed at children aged between eight and 11 who have no musical training.

At the first workshop, in Derby on January 12, more than 600 children attended.

Latest appointments

Charterhouse head moves to Rugby School

Mr Brian Rees, Headmaster of Charterhouse, who is to become Head Master of Rugby School in September, when Mr James Woodhouse leaves to take up his appointment as head of Lancing College.

Mr Rees, who is 51, has been at Charterhouse since 1973. Rugby will be his third headship of one of the original nine Clarendon public schools. He was previously head of Merchant Taylors' School, in Middlesex.

He was educated at Bede Grammar School, in Sunderland, and was a scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he gained a first-class degree in history. He taught at Eton from 1952 to 1963.

He is president of the Conference for Independent Further Education, a member of the council of the independent University College at Buckingham, and chairman of the eastern division of the Headmasters' Conference.

Fees are £1,300 a term at Charterhouse and £1,100 at Rugby. Both schools take girls in their sixth forms.

Other appointments include:
Mr John Major, aged 37, MP for Huntingdonshire, to be parliamentary private secretary to Mr Timothy Raison and Mr Patrick Mayhew, *ministers of state in the* Home Office, in succession to Mr John Patten.
Mr Christopher Patten, aged 36, MP for Bath, to be parliamentary private secretary to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services.
Mr Christopher Warren-Green, aged 25, leader of the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, to be leader of the Philharmonia Orchestra, in succession to Mr Carl Pini.

Latest wills

Painting is left to art fund for £1

Nancy Alexandra Ralli, of Kensington, London, left estate valued at £259,935 net. She left her painting, "Paysage au bord de l'Oise" by Daubigny, to the National Art-Collections Fund for £1.

Edith Crub, of Bayswater, London, left £509,843 net. She died intestate.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Black, Mr Alexander Dunn, of Merton, London £137,215
Boden, Mr Clarence, of Henley on Thames £184,489
Bridson, Mr Douglas Geoffrey, of Highgate, London, BBC radio writer and producer .. £47,491
Cooper, Mr William James, of Newport Pagnell, founder of W. J. Cooper and Sons, agricultural engineers £203,571
Hartwell, Mr Norman Arthur, of Stratford-on-Avon .. £376,669
Pollex, Mr Anthony John, of Heswall, Wirral £183,069
Pulver, Mr Barry Sidney, of Wembley Park, London, £180,381
Turner, Mr Alfred Richard Henry, of Wandsworth, London, electrical engineer £249,410

Science report

Physics: Measuring the speed of light by laser

From David Dickson, Washington

The speed of light is traditionally defined as the number of miles (or metres) that a light wave travels in one second. That was acceptable as long as distance could be measured accurately; but now the tables seem about to be turned.

Arguing that the speed of a light wave is a precisely known constant and that under certain conditions its frequency can be measured with greater accuracy than its wavelength, scientists are suggesting that time and frequency standards should be combined to provide a standard measure of length.

Precise standards of measurement have long been of both intellectual fascination and practical value to scientists; and as measuring techniques have been refined, so it has become obvious that the motion of the Earth is not sufficiently regular to maintain a definition of the second as merely one 86,400th part of the day.

In 1967 the second was redefined by international agreement as 9,192,631,770 oscillations of electromagnetic radiation, which produced a specific absorption in caesium atoms, the so-called caesium clocks. Four years later, using that definition and an infrared laser, the frequency of which could be measured with unprecedented accuracy, scientists at the United States National Bureau of Standards (NBS) gave a value for the speed of light as 299,792,458, plus or minus 1.2, metres a second.

That was a hundred times more accurate than previous measurements and is a record that was entered in the *Guinness Book of Records*. Now the same scientists are suggesting that similar measurements made with a laser that has been extended in the visible region of the electromagnetic spectrum should be used to redefine the standard unit of length, the metre, purely in terms of time and frequency.

The proposal is that, if the speed of light at which the laser beam moves is taken as a fixed value, and since its frequency can now be measured with a high degree of accuracy (the same laser beam can be produced by anyone using the same design and materials), then the metre can be safely defined as the distance that light travels in a vacuum in a particular fraction of a second.

Addressing the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Toronto last week, Dr Kenneth M. Evenson, of the NBS's time and frequency division, said that such a scheme has been approved in principle by the consultative committee on the definition of the metre, and is likely to be accepted by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures when it meets next, in 1982.

Dr Evenson said that the proposed definition was workable because frequencies could be measured two or three orders of magnitude more accurately than wavelengths, the previous basis for defining length.

He said that determining the wavelength of a standard laser using frequency measurements would not affect the uncertainty in its applications as a standard of length.

Lasers could now be sufficiently stabilized so that the frequency need only be measured once. After that any other similarly constructed laser would also emit that standard wavelength, and could therefore be used as a standard of length without further measurement.

With the possibility of that new definition, the era of speed of light measurements may be nearly at an end, Dr Evenson said; since that speed would now be accepted as a known constant, and length would henceforth be defined in terms of time and frequency.

According to Dr Evenson, the present international standard of length, based on the wavelength of the krypton-86 lamp, has been obsolete for nearly a decade, since the wavelength of stable lasers can be compared to each other much more precisely, and laser radiation can be used to measure length over much greater distances than can the krypton-86 lamp source.

The new measurements, using a yellow laser oscillating at 520,000 gigahertz cycles a second and carried out in collaboration with scientists from the National Research Council of Canada, were based on the accepted primary standard of time, the caesium clock. Since the clock operates at the much lower frequency of 9.2 gigahertz, the two frequencies cannot be compared directly. The NBS scientists therefore developed a method of measurement using a chain of lasers operating at intermediate frequencies.

Each laser was compared to the next lower one to establish its frequency, and then to the next higher one to determine the higer frequency. In each measurement a harmonic of the lower frequency was used to reach a range comparable to the one above, and high frequency diodes were then used to measure the resulting "beat" notes.

Since the lower frequency, the multiplication factor needed to obtain the harmonic, and the frequency of the beat note were all known, the upper frequency could be calculated with a high degree of accuracy.

Since the most precise measurements of spectroscopic wavelengths can be made in the visible region of the spectrum, it was necessary for the scientists to extend into that region the apparatus which had previously been used for measuring the speed of light. But as the frequency measurements are still many times more precise than the wavelength measurements, electromagnetic spectra can be measured much more precisely using the frequency techniques.

One of the necessary steps in that process was to find a way of stabilizing the frequency of the laser beam in order to use it in precision experiments. That was done using a technique known as sub-doppler saturated absorption spectroscopy, which allows the frequency of the radiation to be locked on to very narrow spectral features.

OBITUARY

MISS ADELE ASTAIRE

Actress and dancer of the 1920s

Miss Adèle Astaire, actress and dancer, died in Phoenix, Arizona, on January 25. She was 82.

She and her younger brother Fred were the most endeared dancing partnership, both in New York and London, during what was still the "musical comedy" theatre of the nineteen-twenties. But whereas Fred would go forward to a fresh career in the cinema, Adèle retired from the stage after her first marriage in 1932.

Born at Omaha, Nebraska, on September 10, 1898, she came to the New York theatre in 1917 from the testing routines of American vaudeville. Always together until Adèle's retirement, the Astaires developed a close understanding; though each could act and sing, it was their expert feather-whisk dancing that counted. "I hadn't realised before that such rhythm and taste in dancing were possible," wrote Nöel Coward, remembering them as they appeared in *The Love Letter* (Globe, New York, 1921). By then the couple had had four years in such productions as *Over the Top, The Passing Show of 1918,* and *Apple Blossoms*. They were young personable, irresistibly exuberant, and devoted to their work.

During the spring of 1922 they had appeared in a New York musical farce called *For Goodness' Sake*; it was with this, re-named *Stop Flirting*, that they danced themselves into London at the old Shaftesbury Theatre on May 30, 1923, singing "The Whichness and the Whatness" and dancing the so-called "Oom-pah Trot". They were the first night's excitement, but the show in general was badly noticed; it was on the point of closing when suddenly, thanks to royal patronage, it became fashionable in Mayfair and ran on (with a transference midway to the Strand Theatre) for more than twelve months.

It is strange that the Astaires, so securely among dominant figures of the stage during the nineteen-twenties, danced together in only three London productions. All of these were as triumphant as on Broadway where they originated, particularly *Lady, Be Good* with a score by George Gershwin and lyrics by his brother Ira; presented at the Liberty Theatre, New York, in 1924, it came to the Empire, Leicester Square (326 performances) in the spring of 1926, with Adèle as Susie Trevor. One spectator found that her uncrushable impishness reminded him of Louie Freear.

She returned to Broadway (Alvin, 1927) as Frankie in *Funny Face*, also with Gershwin's music. Just a year later she and Fred came back to London to play the same parts at the Prince's; to show themselves as ideal interpreters of Gershwin in what a critic called their "rhythmical catch-as-catch-can"; and to get their usual sustained welcome when they joined in "I love your Funny Face". Adèle, wearing an immense hair-bow, sang "The Babbitt and the Bromide" to Leslie Henson.

This would be the Astaires' farewell to London as partners. When they reappeared in New York (Ziegfeld, November 1930) Adèle was Dot Hastings in *Smiles*; later, at the New Amsterdam (June 1931) they were in Max Gordon's sophisticated revue, *The Band Wagon*, with Tilly Losch also in the cast. After this engagement Adèle came over to England in 1932 to marry Lord Charles Cavendish, second son of the ninth Duke of Devonshire, and to announce her retirement from the theatre. Her second husband, after Lord Charles's death in 1944 was Kingman Douglass, sometime assistant Director of the CIA. He died in 1971.

M ROBERT BALLANGER

M Robert Ballanger, president of the French Communist Party's group in the National Assembly died on January 25 and by his death the party has lost one of its most open and respected members. He was 68.

Born at Nantes on November 2, 1912, Robert Victor Marcel François Ballanger joined the Communist Party at the age of 19 at the time when it was waging a bitter battle over strategy with the Section Française de L'international Ouvriere (SFIO) —the forerunner of today's Socialist Party.

While working in the Nantes office of the Ministry for the Colonies during the 1930s he became a member of the Commission for Regional Political Control — a position which made him an early leader of the Resistance movement in Brittany after the German occupation in 1940. His war service with the Resistance won him the Croix de Guerre and Resistance Medal. A member of the Franctireur and Partisan High Command, he had been made vice-president of the Seine et Oise Liberation Committee in 1944.

Immediately after the war he was elected to the National Assembly for Seine et Oise. He had become a member of the central committee of the Communist Party in 1945 and although he lost his place on it briefly during the 1950s, he was always a powerful voice within the party.

In 1965 he added more local responsibilities to his many interests by being elected to the council of Aulnay sous Bois, of which he became mayor between 1971 and 1978.

His uncompromising opposition to the Socialist advances to the Communist Party which dated from his experiences in the 1930s led him to announce late last year that he would refuse to vote for M Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, if he were the left's candidate in the final round of the presidential election.

A courteous, affable man with a ready smile and a passion for camping and fishing in Corsica, he had friends on all sides of the National Assembly despite his strongly held and often individualistic views.

MR TOMMY WESTON

Tommy Weston, the Yorkshire-born jockey who rode 11 classic winners, nine of them for Lord Derby between 1923 and 1934, has died in hospital in Ely. He was 78. The son of a Dewsbury railway worker, he left a local Roman Catholic school at the age of 13 to work on the old Lancashire-Yorkshire railway. A year later found him apprenticed to Ned McCormack at Middleham and in 1918 when still weighing less than six stone, he rode his first winner at Newmarket.

Such early promise soon attracted attention, and in his first season with Stanley House stable he won the St Leger on Tranquil. Of the 10 classic wins which followed most notable were those of Mudlark, Sansovino (1924) and Hyperion (1933) in the Derby. The former's triumph was a long awaited one indeed for the Derby family as this was their first win in our premier classic since 1787.

Weston also brought a change of fortune to the South African millionaire, Sir Abe Bailey. His lavish support of the British turf had failed over 40 years to bring him a classic winner until the Yorkshire rider won the 1936 Oaks on Lovely Rosa. He headed the list of winning jockeys in 1926, and 20 years later rode his last classic winner, Sir William Cooke's Happy Knight, in the 2,000 Guineas.

A forthright and determined character contributed to his popularity and his many successes on the turf, and these qualities added to unusual strength and stamina ensured his survival after his ship was sunk off Singapore during the last war.

SIR ARNOLD WATERS, VC

Sir Arnold Waters, VC, CBE, DSO, MC, who died on January 22 at the age of 94, won his Victoria Cross on November 4, 1918 a week before the end of the First World War.

He was then a captain (acting major) in the 218th Field Company, Royal Engineers. Waters and his men were under artillery and machine-gun fire at close range, when bridging the Oise-Sambre Canal, the bridge was damaged and the building party suffered casualties. Waters, hearing that all his officers were killed or wounded, at once went forward and personally supervised the completion of the bridge working on cork floats while under fire at point-blank range. So intense was the fire that it seemed impossible that he could escape being killed. The success of the operation, said the citation for his award, was due entirely to his valour and example. Earlier he had won a DSO and an MC.

Arnold Horace Santo Waters, the son of the Rev Richard Waters, a minister of the United Methodist Free Church, was born on September 23, 1886 and educated at Hoe Grammar School, Plymouth. He was trained as an engineer and for two years before the First World War worked for the firm of Wilcox and Raikes. He was president of the Institution of Structural Engineers in 1933. During the Second World War he was Divisional Food Officer for the West Midlands. He was a Deputy Lieutenant for Warwickshire and a Justice of the Peace for Sutton Coldfield. He was chairman of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company from 1946 to 1959. He received a knighthood in 1954.

He married in 1924 Gladys, daughter of the Rev C. D. Barriball. They had three sons.

MR QUINTIN RILEY

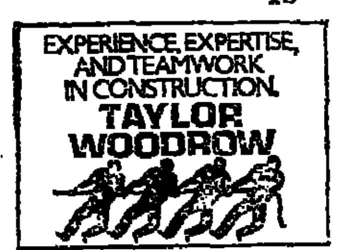
Professor W. S. Allen writes:

May I add a short postscript to your obituary of Quintin Riley on behalf of some of those outside naval and exploring circles who will have been saddened to read of his death?

Riley was one of a distinguished group of instructors, led by his former Greenland colleague J. M. Scott, at the Winter Warfare School set up in northern Iceland in the winter of 1941-42. Many of those on the first cadre course in December 1941 will have read with affectionate memory the reference in your obituary to his "housekeeping" abilities: they will recall his demonstration-lecture at base-camp on "Arctic Cooking", which provided one of the more hilarious interludes in a course which, in spite of discomforts and thanks largely to Riley and his colleagues, persisted in being cheerfully arctic rather than grimly military.

Sir Keith, backs aid for BL, page 17

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS



- **Stock markets**
  FT Ind 463.9 up 8.2 pts
  FT Gilts 65.86 down 0.23
- **Sterling**
  $2.4163 up 95 pts
  Index 81.0 up 0.6
- **Dollar**
  Index 87.8 up 0.5
  DM 2.0542 up 225
- **Gold**
  $529.50 down $23
- **Money**
  3 mnth sterling 14⅞-14⅝
  3 month Euro-$ 18¼-18⅛
  6 month Euro-$ 17⅝-17⅜

IN BRIEF

$2,000m Euroloan to help Italian industry

International banks are rallying to Italy's support after last November's earthquake. Bankers Trust, one of the big New York banks, is putting together a $2,000m (£835m) syndicated Eurocredit facility to help with the reconstruction.

Bankers have been impressed at the way private Italian interests have stepped in to supervise the rebuilding of industry devastated in the earthquake, rather than leave it to the Italian Government whose record in past natural disasters has been considered less than effective.

The loan, to the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno, is to be split into two $1,000m tranches, both for eight years. One is at ½ per cent margin above United States prime rates for the first three years rising to ⅝ per cent thereafter, and the other is linked to the London interbank rate rising from ⅝ per cent for the first 3 years to ¾ per cent.

Only half the loan will be drawn down immediately, and the rest will be in the form of a standby facility.

British Gas order

British Gas intends to order 15 production and processing platforms this year, 12 of them for its Morecambe Bay field and the rest for the partly depleted Rough field in the southern sector of the North Sea to be used for storage. The orders form part of a £1,400m investment over the next four years.

Arab stake increased

Kuwait Investment Office has increased its stake in Royal Insurance to 5.59 per cent, and now has holdings of more than 5 per cent in most big British insurance companies.

Brokers' talks fail

R. P. Martin, the London-based money brokers, has broken off talks with Bierbaum the German money brokers about a permanent trading relationship.

Financial Editor, page 17

STC redundancies

Between 300 and 400 at Standard Telephone and Cables (STC) two Northern Ireland factories are expected to be made redundant as a result of the Government's tight borrowing restrictions on British Telecom.

Touche Ross merger

Touche Ross is expanding its international links with a merger in Hongkong with Kwan Wong Tan Fong, the largest Chinese firm of chartered accountants.

Tax avoidance move

The Inland Revenue is asking for suggestions on the replacement of the provision for countering international tax avoidance by companies.

NEB appointment

Sir Frederick Wood was yesterday confirmed as chairman of the National Enterprise Board.

Wall Street lower

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 1.28 points down to 938.91. The $-SDR was 1.25944. The £ was 0.523785.

Sir William Barlow calls for state groups to be restructured

By Peter Hill

A call to restructure the nationalized industries and bring them under the jurisdiction of the Companies Acts, operating as though they were subject to Stock Exchange rules, was made last night as part of an eight-point programme by Sir William Barlow, former chairman of the Post Office.

Sir William, who resigned last year after a series of disagreements about the degree of intervention in the Post Office's affairs, and its funding, said that the state industries could be changed into Companies Act concerns with equity capital forming most of the funding, even if all the shares were held by the Government.

Under the new structure they would be expected to pay a dividend, and public performance ratios should be published in the same way as they were for private sector companies, with shares available for purchase by the public. Eventually some would become like British Petroleum, whose ownership is shared, in operations and performance.

Sir William was addressing a meeting organized by the Royal Institute for Public Administration on the problems of managing nationalized industries. He said that once the transformation had been achieved, the term "nationalized industries" itself should be abolished because it had become synonymous with "difficulty, argument, subsidy and inadequate performance". Instead they could be called "national companies".

After the change, the Government should be responsible for the appointment of chairmen and of the non-executive directors of the new companies. The non-executive board members might select a chairman but would certainly be responsible for the selection of executive directors.

Under the new organization, the companies' boards would be responsible for fund raising, capital investment and long term planning. Civil Service vetting would be removed.

The present role of sponsoring ministers where they hold responsibility for each of the industries would be modified instead one or possibly two ministers would be responsible for all the national companies.

"Britain does not know what it wants from the nationalized industries with the result that the management of them is very difficult and the results satisfy nobody", he said.

There should be no further nationalization and denationalization should proceed where it was feasible. The present Government had made slow progress by waiting to get the best price. "If the principle is right, they should proceed without delay", he said.

Under his programme of change, the large corporations would be divided into smaller corporations where practical, which would reduce individual top management loads and provide management with a chance of balancing highly centralized union power.

Monopolies in the state sector should be reduced where possible with the injection of competition providing a motivation for management. The relaxation of the telecommunications monopoly had been a start but several others should be tackled.

The whole subject of the future of nationalized industries should be dealt with by a small team under the direction of a chairman appointed by the Prime Minister who would be charged with submitting "creative proposals" within six months.

Business Diary, page 17

Sir Hugh Fraser tells of new move to oust him

By Philip Robinson

House of Fraser directors will meet at Barkers store in Kensington High Street, London tomorrow to try to decide who runs Britain's largest stores group.

The meeting has been called not by Sir Hugh Fraser, the group's chairman—who staged a dramatic reconciliation with Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive, last week—but by Mr George Willoughby, another House of Fraser director.

Sir Hugh said last night: "I expect they will try to remove me from the board. And if they succeed I expect we will have another meeting to see if the shareholders want to see Sir Hugh Fraser pushed out as chairman."

The future role of S. G. Warburg, House of Fraser's merchant bank, and Cazenove, its stockbroker, is also expected to be on the agenda. Neither was available for comment last night.

Sir Hugh said: "There is no love lost between me and Warburg. It is not generally known but they tried to get me out as chairman last July, but I was supported by the rest of the board

"That was before the two additions of Professor Roland Smith and Mr Ernest Sharp were made (to the board). I had no objection to the outside directors, and Cazenove has done a superb job for us."

Professor Smith was given a salary of £50,000 a year after he deposed Mr Rowland as non-executive deputy chairman in August.

Sir Hugh Fraser: "no love lost between me and Warburg".

Lonrho, with two representatives on the House of Fraser board—Mr Rowland and Lord Duncan-Sandys—made it clear after last week's reconciliation that there was no place in the future of the stores group for either Professor Smith or Warburg.

The board meeting tomorrow is the latest in a series of events which started last Monday on the eve of the special shareholders' meeting to decide whether the group should go ahead with the £29m sale and leaseback scheme for the D. H. Evans Oxford Street store.

That night a private letter from Mr Rowland was given to Sir Hugh. Its contents did not concern any criticism of the management of House of Fraser but made personal references to Sir Hugh.

Sir Hugh said last night: "He accused me of being bankrupt. I said I could write him a cheque for £250,000—or was it £500,000? I can't remember now.

"Yes, I have been gambling again, it might as well come out into the opener. The last time I gambled was this month. I won in one place, lost in another, and came out even over all. But I'm finished with all that now."

The day after the letter was received, Sir Hugh won shareholders' support for the D. H. Evans deal on a show of hands by 62 to 26, but also had the backing of 71.4 million votes against the 51.8 million which included Lonrho's own 45 million shares.

Once again shareholders had rejected what had been described as Lonrho's "harassment" of House of Fraser as decisively as they had at the annual meeting last year.

That afternoon, House of Fraser directors went into a board meeting, after which, Sir Hugh says, Lord Garmoyle of S. G. Warburg asked him to resign.

Then on Thursday, Sir Hugh received a message from Mr Rowland saying that he wanted to see him. Mr Rowland ran from Paris, and flew to the Marine Hotel in Troon, Ayrshire, arriving at 7 pm and leaving about 9.10 pm. They talked of misunderstandings and made it up. "We agreed there had been faults on both sides", Sir Hugh said.

Subsequently, Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, said the trading group now stood firmly behind Sir Hugh and would have its wholehearted support as chairman of House of Fraser.

Sir Hugh said last night: "I've told Roland that I will be acting for all the shareholders of Fraser, not one side or the other. He gave me an assurance that the harassment would stop, and I believe him."

At midnight on Friday, Mr David Scholey, chairman of S. G. Warburg, rang Sir Hugh seeking a meeting the next day. Sir Hugh said: "There were two representatives from Warburg and one from Cazenove and they wanted to know what their position was, and I told them it was up to the Fraser board."

Meanwhile there is growing unrest among a number of House of Fraser's institutional shareholders, the pension funds and insurance companies. Between last June and last week's extraordinary meeting, institutions were encouraged to buy Fraser shares, which sent their proportion of the equity up from around 35 per cent to nearly 40 per cent.

Mr Hugh Jenkins, director-general of the National Coal Board Pension Fund, the Post Office Pension Fund and Lucas, has sought a meeting with Sir Hugh, Professor Smith and Mr Sharp.

Sir Hugh said: "Contact was made, but they wanted the three of us there, which could not be arranged."

Report calls for tight Fed money policy

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Jan 26

The Southwest Bank of St Louis today cut its prime commercial lending rate to 19 per cent from 20 per cent. Other United States banks may make a similar cut in the next few weeks, according to Wall Street experts.

Meanwhile, a report published today by the Domestic Monetary Policy Committee of the United States House of Representatives, called for a long-term strategy of tight Federal Reserve policies.

Mr Warren Mitchell, the committee's chairman, said: "We will not achieve economic stability unless we get M1B growth down to 2 to 3 per cent per year and keep it there."

The report called for greater efforts by the Fed to secure slower money supply growth and for less concern over seeking to regulate interest rate levels.

Mr Mitchell stressed that attaining 2-3 per cent per year M1B growth may take several years, but that "this is the essential prerequisite for achieving minimal inflation, minimal unemployment and low interest rates".

The Fed is showing no sign of easing its tight money policies, despite increasing expectations that the level of economic activity will slump significantly in the coming months. This expected slump, bringing a fall in general commercial loan demand, is fuelling expectations of a prime rate reduction soon.

The Fed's policy decisions in the next few weeks are likely to be critically influenced by the fiscal policy decisions of the Reagan Administration and the congressional response to these decisions.

The Fed is encouraging the Administration to make substantial public spending cuts.

Gold plunges as sterling advances again

By Frances Williams

Sterling continued to advance against all the main world currencies yesterday, reaching its highest levels for several years against a number of continental currencies. But gold plunged to its lowest closing level since the end of May last year, down $23 from Friday's close at $529.50.

The pound's effective exchange rate index against a basket of currencies rose to 81.0, up 0.6 from Friday's close. It was last around this level in April, 1975. Against the dollar, which carries a weight of about one-third in the index, sterling rose by just under a cent to end the day at $2.4165, back at the levels reached in mid-November.

The dollar was stronger against continental currencies and the yen. The Deutsche mark proved especially vulnerable as the dollar finished trading at DM 2.0542, up 2¼ pfennigs.

Foreign exchange dealers were unable to identify any new factors to explain yesterday's sharp rises in the United Kingdom and United States currencies, though some suggested that there had been switching out of gold.

STERLING $/£ spot rate
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX Dec 1971=100

The dollar continues to be supported by high domestic and Eurodollar interest rates, and by expectations that they will remain steady or rise in the near future.

Sterling remains buoyed by its status as a petrocurrency, by high interest rates relative to other European countries and by the very strong balance of payments position.

The rise of the dollar has been mirrored by the fall in the price of gold, as higher dollar interest rates have increased the costs of financing the metal.

Dealers point out that there is little to encourage new buyers to enter the market, and thus not much resilience to selling pressures. After gold had passed through the $550-$560 level, without attracting support, many investors were unloading gold to cut their losses in the expectation of further price falls, which would prompt yet more "stop-loss" selling.

In the absence of new buyers, dealers expected the price to fall to around $500 or below in the short term.

Gold fell $28 in New York, where the spot price closed at $523-525 an ounce, compared with Friday's $551.50-553.50. The collapse was attributed to a report on Friday that President Reagan and Mr Paul Volcker, the Fed chairman, would favour a drop in gold's price.

The continuing appreciation of the pound is worrying for the Government and for industry, which is faced with ever-worsening competitiveness in both domestic and overseas markets.

But last night the Treasury was sticking firmly to the official line that the exchange rates should be left to the market to determine.

Index higher: An 8.2 point rise in the FT Index to 463.9 yesterday, the opening day of the new account, had insufficient volume behind it to be justified, according to many jobbers (Catherine Gunn writes).

It was triggered by a more confident mood in the market, based on the widespread belief that minimum lending rate will be cut by 2 per cent in the Budget. This kept sellers out of the market and allowed share prices to firm up; so even the thinnest demand sent shares up sharply.

Monday is usually a poor day for business and few institutions were buying, but with no sellers of stock their sporadic interest and a handful of bargain hunters meant that share prices were marked up steadily throughout the day.

A marked change of mood in the oil market, which sent index constituent BP up 12p to 402p, provided extra help.

In the gilts market, stock was on sale as investors got ready to switch into the new convertible tap stock announced on Friday. There was some recovery after hours.

Talks on loans to boost energy conservation

By Our Industrial Editor

Discussions are taking place between the European Investment Bank and the Treasury, along with other financial institutions, to develop a loans scheme promoting energy conservation investment in the United Kingdom.

Top officials of the EIB want it to be similar to those being deployed by the bank in Denmark, Italy, the Republic of Ireland and Belgium.

The Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation has been taking part in the negotiations and would be the most likely channel through which funds would be alocated.

EIB officials have been encouraged by the response and such a scheme would undoubtedly commend itself to the National Coal Board which has been trying to persuade the Government to launch a scheme to encourage industries to switch from oil to coal-fired boilers.

So far the Treasury has expressed reservations because the EIB loans would require to be covered by exchange risk guarantees, and Treasury officials appear to be worried by the implications of exposure to unquantified risks.

Lending for energy related investments account for the bulk of the EIB's lending operations, but yesterday the Bank announced that it had negotiated a new loan worth £5m with Finance for Industry, the ICFC's parent.

Loans under this facility will be channelled through the ICFC to small businesses and sums of £15,000 - £50,000 will be available under the scheme.

The EIB's funds will be lent on its behalf by the ICFC for up to eight years, including a two year grace period with the Government providing exchange risk cover involving an interest rate of about 13 per cent.

The EIB believes that its lending activities are not reaching the very small companies or those businessmen who want to start up in business.

CBI warning on £34m rates burden

By Clifford Webb, Midland Industrial Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry has warned Birmingham's Labour-controlled city council that a proposed 40 per cent increase in rates will cost local companies an extra £34m which can only be raised at the expense of jobs and investment.

Mr David Richards, chairman of the CBI's West Midlands rates working party and financial director of Delta Rod, detailed the dangers in a letter to Councillor Clive Wilkinson, leader of the city council.

He pointed out that with output more than 10 per cent below 1979's average and still falling, many sectors of manufacturing industry were experiencing their worst slump for 50 years. In some cases order books had shrunk by up to 60 per cent over the past 12 months.

"The recession has been particularly severe within those industries which predominate in the West Midlands. During the last year more than 70,000 people have been made redundant in the region and at least double this number are on short time.

"There are as yet no signs that economic activity will pick up before the end of the summer, if then. Even if it does, the extent of the upturn is uncertain and there is no confidence of its return to prerecession levels", Mr Richards said.

£7m bid by Associated Newspapers for Bristol Evening Post

By Richard Allen

Associated Newspapers, the publishing to North Sea oil group headed by Lord Rothermere, has launched a 190p a share bid for the Bristol Evening Post, in which it already has a near 24 per cent stake.

The bid puts a value of £7.76m on the Post, which through Bristol United Press, its trading subsidiary, publishes the Evening Post, the Western Daily Press, New Observer and other titles including the Western Gazette and South Avon Mercury.

Associated, which publishes the Daily Mail and a string of magazine and provincial titles, said yesterday that it had put takeover proposals to the Post board last September. It had decided to go to shareholders direct after failure to reach agreement with the Post board.

It was still not clear last night whether or not the bid would be opposed, though this seemed possible. Mr Andrew Breach, chairman, said his board intended to discuss it at a meeting on Thursday.

However, there is understood to be anger in the Post camp over Associated's plan to overturn existing stakeholding agreements between the two groups at an extraordinary meeting before making its bid. The agreements include the understanding that Associated would not make a contested bid for the company.

Associated and its major shareholders, the Daily Mail and General Trust between them hold 40 per cent of the Post's trading subsidiary as a result of an agreement after the merger of certain publications in the early 1960s.

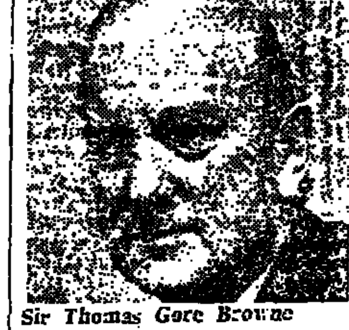
For this reason Associated's bid is believed almost certain to escape a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. As recently as last April the commission stated that Associated could be adjudged a proprietor of the Post's newspaper interests because of these holdings.

The bid represents an 85p premium over Post's Friday closing price and yesterday its shares rose to 180p on the announcement.

The Bristol group's shares have been under a cloud since December, when it revealed an interim loss of £53,000 blaming the National Graphical Association dispute last spring, which cost £1m and a drop in classified advertising revenues. The previous year it made a pretax profit of £2.6m.

Associated, which earlier this month reported a drop in pretax profits from £23.9m to £22.5m for last year, ended the period with a pretax loss of £6m after allowing for closure costs of more than £24.4m at the London Evening News.

Financial Editor, page 17


Sir Thomas Gore Browne

Government Broker appointed

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke, Financial Editor

Lord Cromwell is to succeed Sir Thomas Gore Browne as the Government Broker—or Senior Broker to the National Debt Commissioners — when Sir Thomas retires on April 7.

By tradition extending back to the late 18th century, the post of Government Broker is filled by the senior partner of Mullens & Company, a City stockbroking firm.

Lord Cromwell is 51, a barrister who became a partner in Mullens in 1960 and was appointed Second Government Broker in 1973 when Sir Thomas became the Government Broker.

The Government Broker is responsible as an agent of the Bank of England, for selling government debt to the public through the jobbing system and maintaining an orderly gilt-edged market by the tactical purchase of maturing stock.

£1,000m offer by oil companies

By Nicholas Hirst

Oil companies have appealed to the Government to raise the extra £1,000m it planned to take from North Sea revenues next year through a temporary mechanism, rather than by imposing a new supplementary tax.

A letter sent by the United Kingdom Offshore Operators' Association to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, has expressed the companies' worries by too many changes in fiscal policy.

They are concerned that the new supplementary revenue tax, imposed on top of corporation tax, petroleum revenue tax and royalties, may have damaging effects on North Sea development.

They want the Government to revise North Sea taxes so that they attack profits rather than revenue.

The companies have recognized that, having told Parliament that an extra £1,000m is to be raised from the North Sea next year, it would be unrealistic to expect the Chancellor to reverse his decision. But, rather than impose a bad tax, the companies would prefer for the £1,000m to be raised by temporary means while both sides examined ways of improving the overall tax structure.

Part of the £1,000m is to be raised through revisions of petroleum revenue tax (PRT), and discussions are taking place with the Inland Revenue.

The feeling that PRT has failed to take care of the large increases in oil prices since it was introduced in the Oil Tax Act of 1975, is widespread, and the new tax was designed to plug that gap.

There is evidence to suggest that the new tax was a last-minute addition to the measures announced by the Chancellor in his November package, and oil companies are concerned about the complications of dealing with three levels of interacting taxes and royalties, and believe there is a strong case for revising the system.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Bk Leumi UK	15p to 195p	GRE	8p to 300p
Boustead	16p to 128p	Horizon Travel	10p to 148p
BP	12p to 402p	Mercantile Hse	20p to 570p
Burton Grp	11p to 109p	Refuge	8p to 222p
GEC	10p to 595p	Rotaprint	2p to 11p

Falls

Alexs Discount	17p to 267p	Middle Wits	125p to 625p
East Dagga	12p to 89p	S A Land	54p to 195p
E Rand Prop	£1¼ to £8	Wankie Coll	5p to 43p
Elsburg Gold	41p to 168p	Western Areas	64p to 242p
Marievale Con	19p to 155p	W Rand Cons	20p to 137p

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells		Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	2.12	2.04	Netherlands Gld	5.48	5.25
Austria Sch	36.20	34.20	Norway Kr	13.19	12.64
Belgium Fr	81.25	77.75	Portugal Esc	134.00	126.00
Canada $	2.93	2.85	South Africa Rd	2.13	1.98
Denmark Kr	15.64	14.94	Spain Pta	199.00	190.50
Finland Mkk	9.83	9.38	Sweden Kr	11.20	10.70
France Fr	11.68	11.18	Switzerland Fr	4.60	4.38
Germany DM	5.08	4.85	USA $	2.47	2.40
Greece Dr	123.00	116.00	Yugoslavia Dnr	85.00	80.00
Hongkong $	12.80	12.20			
Italy Lira	2410.00	2300.00			
Ireland Pt	1.35	1.30			
Japan Yn	513.00	487.00			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Surprise resignation of chairman after series of boardroom disputes

Atlantic Richfield president to head RCA

Mr Thornton Bradshaw, president of the Atlantic Richfield Company and chairman of The Observer newspaper, will resign his present positions to become chairman of the RCA Corporation, after the surprise resignation of Mr Edgar Griffiths, aged 59.

It appears that frequent disagreements between Mr Griffiths and the RCA board have resulted in his decision to leave the company when he turns 60 in July. Mr Bradshaw, aged 63, has been a director of RCA for the last nine years.

RCA is a conglomerate owning such companies as NBC television, CIT Financial and Hertz, the car rental agency, and it had profits of $315m (£131.25m) last year on sales of $8,010m.

Mr Griffiths has headed RCA for the last four years and his ruthless management style has produced considerable tension among the top echelons. Last summer he dismissed Mr Maurice Valente, who only five and a half months earlier had been appointed RCA's president.

Another dispute arose when at about the same time Mr Griffiths fired Mrs Jane Cahill Pfeiffer, chairman of NBC, and sought at first to avoid paying off her contract. The public wrangle ended with the RCA board providing Mrs Pfeiffer with an $800,000 settlement.

Mr Griffiths did, however, streamline the conglomerate, selling some subsidiaries and buying the CIT Financial Corporation for $1,350m last year. At the same time he pressed ahead with the development of a television video record system that will be launched in a few months' time.

A notable failure for Mr Griffiths has been reviving the fortunes of NBC television, which has badly trailed CBS and ABC television networks in the last three years and whose profits have been almost cut in half now to less than $70m a year.

Mr Bradshaw, who has been president of ARCO for 14 years, is expected to calm many of the personal storms created by Mr Griffiths and strengthen the general public image.

He said he would evaluate each of the company's subsidiaries. He will take a five-year contract, but given his age, one of his prime tasks will be finding the future heads of RCA.

Mr Griffiths will remain a member of the RCA board and he will also be given a five-year consultant's contract paying $450,000 a year.

Frank Vogl

Mr Thornton Bradshaw: strengthening RCA image.

Swiss tighten secrecy over movements of bullion

Berne, Jan 26.—The Swiss customs office today closed a gap in Swiss banking secrecy by curbing publication of statistics on movements of gold in and out of the country.

From now on figures published once a month will give only the total amount of gold leaving and entering Switzerland. The name of foreign countries involved will no longer be given.

Bullion banks in Zurich, which claims to be the world's most important physical gold trading market, have complained that the detailed statistics published since last September have harmed relations with customers.

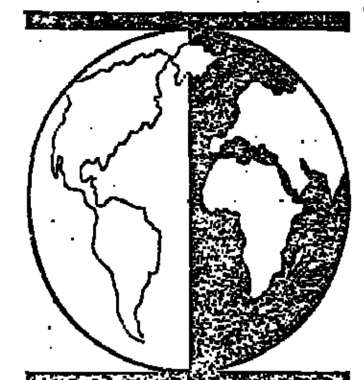
The Soviet Union, the world's second largest gold producer, had been selling gold in other financial centres rather than in its traditional outlet in Zurich because of the unwanted publicity, bankers said.

Just under 40 tonnes of gold were imported from the Soviet Union to Switzerland in 1980, compared to estimated sales of 230 tonnes in 1979, according to the customs figures. But this mainly reflected lower Soviet sales overall rather than discontent with Zurich, the bankers said.

Bulgaria and Romania sent about 56 tonnes to Switzerland. Some of this may have originated from the Soviet Union or might have been smuggled from Turkey, they added.

The customs office said that the naming of countries involved in gold movement could be misleading.

Some gold was moved to or from Switzerland for reasons other than market transaction, and not all gold sold in Zurich appeared in the customs figures because it was stored in duty-free warehouses while in Switzerland.—Reuter.



U S officials seek aid for Chrysler from Japan

Mr Michio Watanabe, the Japanese finance minister said that three senior United States officials were seeking Japan's help in rescuing the ailing Chrysler car corporation.

He said that he had passed the request on to Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Prime Minister, but would not say what the Reagan Administration wanted from Japan or name the three officials, although government sources said one of the three was Mr Paul Volcker, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Chrysler has a minor shareholding in Mitsubishi Motors which has been a leading supplier of small cars and engines for sale by Chrysler in the United States.

Tigris project

A German-Italian consortium led by Hochtief, the West German heavy construction company, has been awarded a contract valued at around DM3,000m (£596m) by the Iraqi irrigation ministry to build a dam across the River Tigris

Cargo carrier funding

The Wah Kwong shipping group has negotiated a financial package from Chartered Bank worth the equivalent of £23.75m to cover part of the construction costs of a 260,000 ton deadweight dry cargo carrier for Chivalry Carriers.

Bonn M3 up 6.9%

West Germany's seasonally-adjusted broadly-defined money supply, M3, grew at a projected annual rate of 6.9 per cent in December, up from 5.9 per cent in November and 3.5 per cent in December 1979.

Alfa workers laid off

More than 6,000 workers at the Alfa Romeo plants in Milan were laid off for the rest of the week under plans by the management of the state owned car manufacturer to reduce excessive stocks.

German inflation up

The West German cost of living index for January is expected to show a rise of around 6 per cent compared with the January 1980 figure after a 5.5 per cent year on year rise in December.

GM spending

General Motors is to spend $80,000m (£33,333m) on new products, plant and technology between now and the end of the decade, according to an American trade paper.

China's 'open door'

China is maintaining an "open door" policy in foreign trade and economic cooperation, despite economic restraint and cuts in capital investment, Vice Premier Gu Mu said.

Credit for India

India is seeking a 7-year $200m (£83.3m) bank loan for its Oil and Natural Gas Commission with a margin of only ⅝ point above the London Inter-Bank Borrowing Rate for the first two years and then ¾ point above it for the last five years.

Romania canal loan

The Investment Bank of Romania has successfully negotiated an 8-year $200m (£83.3m) loan with 32 banks for financing of the Danube-Black Sea canal project.

Swiss interest move

Two leading Swiss cantonal banks are to pay 5 per cent interest on medium term notes of all maturities. The large commercial banks raised their rates on Friday.

Brazil approach

The Brazilian Government has approached the French state-owned Renault motor group about the possibility of establishing a motor industry in the Recife region.

Futures inquiry

The Taiwan police have detained several executives of unauthorized futures trading houses on charges of fraud and tax evasion.

Morocco loan

The World Bank is to lend Morocco $136m (£56.6m) to boost the tourist trade and employment

Dutch orders

The Dutch seasonally adjusted index of industrial orders in hand was unchanged at 91. (January 1978 = 100) in December.

Poor wine harvest

The West German wine industry had a "catastrophic" 1980 harvest of 102 million gallons, 43 per cent less than in 1979.

Harrods orders

Buyers from Harrods department store are to place substantial orders for fashion dresses and separates designed and manufactured in Hongkong.

U S car sales down

New car sales in the United States declined 9.4 per cent in mid-January compared with 1980.

European and Japanese banks will be preferred for future borrowings

Iran's credit rating likely to improve

When the controversy over the 52 American hostages has died down, many European bankers privately predict that Iran may emerge with a good credit rating and a need to borrow, but with a strong preference for dealing with European or Japanese banks.

Iran is generally regarded now as uncreditworthy. But the Swiss Credit Bank and Banque Nationale de Paris say they are still providing short-term trade and bridging finance against strong guarantees. Most European bankers, however, agree with Mr Gilbert de Botton, of the Bank Rothschild in Zurich, that Iran could raise longer-term money today only by pledging gold or cash.

While Iran's domestic politics and its war with Iraq account for much of the European bankers' reserve, another factor is the claims that many western banks and companies still have against the country.

Although Iran has agreed to pay off all its roughly $3,600m (£1,500m) worth of syndicated bank debts, the big American and European banks still have outstanding about $1,400m of private loans to Iranian companies and individuals. In addition, the bankers also want compensation for the 47 foreign-controlled banks nationalized at the revolution.

The British, West German and French export-promotion banks still refuse to extend credit to Iran. It is a simple matter of risk assessment that has nothing to do with the hostages, a spokesman for Britain's Export Credit Guarantee Department said.

There is no sign, however, that Iran wants to borrow from western bankers. At a recent seminar, Mr Ibrahim Bahmaie, London manager of Bank Saderat, one of Iran's leading banks, said he did not expect Iran would need to borrow from foreign banks this year.

One of the reasons why Iran agreed—to the surprise of many bankers—to pay off immediately all its syndicated bank debts, it is thought to be a cash shortage that made it desperate to recover at least some of its frozen assets quickly to finance the war with Iraq.

Bankers feel that Iran can probably keep going without foreign assistance for the best part of a year on the $3,000m in gold and cash it has already recovered in return for the hostages, together with its earnings from the 700,000 to 1 million barrels of oil it apparently is now selling daily at about $37 a barrel.

Iran's credit standing in Europe is surprisingly good, M Yves Laulan, chief economist at Societe Generale, a big French state bank, said. The financial side of the picture must be separated from the humanitarian.

Many European bankers seem to agree. They argue that Iran has sought to meet its financial obligations, within the limits imposed by the Carter freeze. The bankers remain critical of the freeze, particularly its extension to Iranian funds in overseas branches of American banks, which is still seen as unwarranted political interference in other countries' affairs.

They also say that Iran will emerge from the assets freeze almost free of foreign debt, if outstanding claims can be successfully arbitrated by the tribunal provided for in the hostage agreement.

Some American bankers also show signs of wanting to patch up their quarrel with Iran. Morgan Guaranty, which infuriated the West German Government last year by persuading a German court to attach Iran's roughly 25 per cent stake in Krupp and Deutsche Babcock, confirmed last week that it had asked the court to lift the order now that the American bank has been repaid.

Most European bankers are convinced Iran's leaders will never again do business with the big American banks. But some of them see the decision by Iran to repay most American syndicated bank debt as a calculated attempt to wipe the slate clean.

Paul Lewis
New York Times News Service

Rolls-Royce expecting 1982 profit

By Arthur Reed

Rolls-Royce, the state-owned aero-engine manufacturer, expects a return to profitability in 1982 after making losses during 1979, 1980 and this year.

When it announces its results for 1980 in May, the company is expected to report a halving of its pre-tax loss of £58.4m made in 1979. It made £11.7m in 1978, its last profitable year.

Although it is still suffering in overseas markets through the strong rate for sterling against the dollar, two other factors are helping Rolls towards its financial turnaround. These are the slowing of the inflation rate in Britain and increasing productivity by its 57,000 workers.

By 1984, the company expects that productivity will equal that of Pratt and Whitney and General Electric its main American rivals. This should, in turn, enable it to reduce the price of its engines and spares.

As part of the drive towards higher productivity, Rolls is to shed 2,000 jobs this year and a further 1,000 in 1982, mainly through natural wastage.

Union calls for increased public investment in chemicals

By John Huxley

Union leaders yesterday urged the Government to take the lead in maximizing the ust of North Sea feedstocks in Britain by enlarging the public stake in the chemicals industry.

One way in which this could be done is by allowing the British National Oil Corporation to become a producer of petrochemicals. The state-owned corporation is being allowed to act as a wholesaler for feedstock gases which will become available from the North Sea gas gathering pipeline, but the Government has so far ruled out its entry into downstream activities.

The suggestion is included in a union report containing a 10-point recovery plan for the chemicals industry launched by the General and Municipal Workers' Union in London yesterday.

The union says that a full scale programme to harness and use the feedstocks is urgently needed, and it accuses the multinational companies like Shell, ICI, Esso and BP of reacting belatedly to the opportunities now prosented. The union notes that investment is estimated to be likely to fall by as much as 30 per cent between 1978 and 1982.

"It is nonsense for the industry to claim that the resources are not available. On the contrary, billions of pounds will be coming available every year from the Government's North Sea revenues and from the vast savings in pension schemes.

"This money must be channelled to where it is needed—into investment projects such as those associated with North Sea feedstocks, which are crucial to industry's long term survival."

The GMWU repeats its call for selective import controls. It points out that United States exports of chemicals to the European Community have risen quickly, and in the case of some products, like PVC, trebled in the first half of last year alone.

The GMWU report, *Crisis in Chemicals*, strongly criticizes the role of the large companies and defends workers against allegations of excessive wage claims and low productivity. It claims that the campaign by the Chemical Industries Association to ameliorate the burden of rising energy costs borne by industry was a noisy, diversionary tactic.

Publication of the report coincided with the opening yesterday of the union's national chemicals conference. Mr David Warburton, the national industrial officer, told delegates: "There is no doubt that some chemical companies are in difficulties as a result of Thatcherism, but that is no excuse for the scale of cutbacks in certain companies".

Large-scale redundancies have been announced in recent months by BP Chemicals, Shell, ICI Fibres and Fisons in its fertilizer division.

Although the GMWU supports new investment, it appears to have been unable or unwilling to evaluate the merits even in terms of jobs pay-off, of the various schemes now competing for access to North Sea feedstocks.

Japan offer to limit car exports

Tokyo, Jan 26.—Japan will offer to limit its car exports to West Germany and the Benelux countries this year to last year's levels, in an effort to smooth trade frictions with the European Economic Community.

The proposal will be made at the half-yearly consultations tomorrow and Thursday in Tokyo on the EEC-Japanese trade imbalance which was $9,000m in Japan's favour last year.

About 10 delegates from the EEC, led by Sir Roy Denman, the European Commission's director-general for external relations, arrived over the weekend and began calling on their counterparts.

West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg were selected for Japan's offer of restraint because these markets have been open to free international competition in automobile trade.

British, Italian, French and other European makers also wish to see a decline in Japan's share although Japan already exercises informal restraint in these markets.

The Japanese Government thought a single package of restrictions on car exports to the EEC would be too harsh on the Japanese industry.

Japanese cars account for nearly 25 per cent of the Benelux market. Between January and October last year 87,800 units were sold in Belgium, more than the 1979 annual total of 76,000 units, and 109,300 units were sold in The Netherlands.

Japan nearly doubled its share of the West German new car market to 10.4 per cent in 1980 from 5.7 per cent in 1979 and displaced France as the leading import seller, accounting for 252,000 units.

During the two-day official talks the EEC delegation is also expected to press Japan to give a rapid boost to farming, food and manufactured imports from the EEC, lift all import curbs, and brief the EEC on its trade negotiations with the United States. Agence France-Presse.

20,000 UK clothing jobs at risk

From Peter Norman
Brussels, Jan 26

Mr Alec Smith, general secretary of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, today gave a warning that 20,000 jobs, representing 10 per cent of the current labour force, could be lost in the British clothing industry this year.

After a day spent visiting EEC Commission officials as a member of a joint delegation of employers and union leaders from the industry, Mr Smith said that the state of employment in the industry had reached crisis proportions.

Part of the blame lay with the domestic policies of the British Government, he said, but a still greater problem was "the misapplication of current trading arrangements".

Mr Gerald French, a director of the British Clothing Industry Association, said that both sides of British Industry detected a lack of will on the part of the commission to gain the best advantage from the quotas of the multi-fibre arrangements, the regime under which international trade in textiles and clothing is regulated.

Mr Smith said that the Commission should act with greater speed, particularly when dumping was alleged. "It should act instead of waiting for the decimation of the sector", he said.

Mr Alec Smith: warning.

Further job fears over Tate closure

By R. W. Shakespeare

Trade union representatives on Merseyside have expressed fears that the planned closure of the Tate and Lyle sugar refinery in Liverpool, with the loss of 1,570 jobs, could lead to still more cutbacks in an area where unemployment is already running at well over 15 per cent, and where many more redundancies are in the pipeline.

They believe the company's decision to close its 112-year-old Liverpool base may mean more redundancies on the docks and possibly in some related industries such as brewing, food and confectionery manufacturing.

Tate and Lyle workers have voted unanimously to mount "total resistance" to the closure plans, which are due to take effect in April. They are handing over their individual redundancy notices to shop stewards to pass on to a union action committee set up to fight the closure.

Local MPs are already pressing for a Commons debate and several have signed a motion urging the Government to intervene.

Yesterday shop stewards from the Liverpool refinery were attending a joint meeting in London with stewards from the company's two other plants in Scotland and London.

Heavy NCB investment in pit automation

Technology News

Nucleonic methods of sensing coal, and underground radar techniques, are likely to follow the National Coal Board's present generation of automation systems. This was indicated by Sir Derek Ezra, NCB chairman, during a recent visit to Bagworth Colliery in Leicestershire.

Bagworth has served as an experimental development site for computer-based monitoring and control systems which are being introduced in collieries throughout the country.

Bagworth's Mine Operating Systems (Minos) controls almost nine miles of underground coal conveyors, starting them up in the correct sequence, continuously monitoring them and stopping them. It also monitors three storage bunkers and pumping operations to keep the mine free from flooding.

The second part of the Bagworth installation is known as Fido (Face Information Digested On-line). This monitors the mining machine on each of three coalfaces, checking whether the machine, with its associated conveyor system, is running or is prevented from cutting coal; and observing the mechanical "health" of the equipment.

This significantly helps to reduce persistent production bottlenecks. Both systems free men from inspection and patrolling duties for productive jobs.

Computer monitoring of mine ventilation is in operation at five other collieries, and development is well advanced to extend the monitoring technique to the electrical switchgear that supplies power to the mining machines and to ventilation fans.

Sir Derek Ezra, on his visit to Bagworth, said: "We took an old industry, and fully mechanized it. Now we are going still further and applying computers and other high-technology techniques to improve the performance of machinery and to control the mining environment. This gives management valuable information and close control of operations in a way that has not been possible before".

"We have by no means reached the limit of information and control systems that we can apply to our established and proven methods of mining. These include not only the widespread use of computers, but developments that will utilize nucleonic coal sensing and radar techniques underground".

Improvements in emulsifying

An improved method of emulsifying liquids which uses electrostatic forces has been developed at Southampton University and is being promoted for industrial use by the National Research Development Corporation.

Emulsification, or the dispersion of fine particles of one liquid into another liquid, is important in many manufacturing processes. It is particularly important for aerosol products such as wax polishes, where a small amount of the product needs to be distributed evenly and finely over a large area.

Conventionally a two-stage mechanical process is used, which may suffer from a wide variation in particle size which can lead to creaming or gelling. In the Southampton process, now in pilot stage, a high direct voltage (40 kilovolts) is applied to the first liquid as it emerges from a nozzle, producing an atomized spray which is fed into a thin, moving layer of the second liquid.

Nuclear station earthquake test

An earthquake simulator in which nuclear power station equipment will be tested is to be supplied to the Hydroproject Institute of Moscow by Servotest, part of the Derritron group. The simulator is a computer-controlled laboratory in which the equipment to be tested will be mounted on a seismic platform six metres square.

This platform will be able to support structures weighing up to 50 tonnes. Twelve hydraulic actuators, under closed-loop servo control, are used to move the platform in the three linear axes and to provide rotation about each axis.

Servo-control is provided by Moog valves. The full frequency range of seismic disturbances can be reproduced, with rates up to 1.2g in two horizontal axes and 1g in the vertical axis.

Internal coating for pipelines

The ability of sewers to cope with heavy rainstorms can be increased with the injection of synthetic drag-reducing polymers which make possible a faster flow through the pipes. The same principle has been used in drag-reducing paints which enable racing yachts to move more rapidly through the water; and in additives which speed the flow of oil through the Trans-Alaska pipeline.

Wessex Water Authority is now examining the use of such polymers to increase the carrying capacity of sewers. According to Mr Peter Steel, divisional engineer (development and planning) of the Bristol-Avon division of the authority, experiments have shown that the mixing of sewer flows with an appropriate polymer additive can increase discharge capacities by at least 25 per cent.

Under the guidance of Dr R. H. J. Sellin of Bristol University, the authority has carried out a series of tests. In three separate schemes, drag reductions of 25 per cent, 40-45 per cent, and 60-65 per cent respectively were demonstrated.

Kenneth Owen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Importance of sugar arrangement

From The High Commissioner for Guyana

Sir, In today's edition (January 23, page 15) you are good enough to quote from the statement I issued on behalf of the governments of the suppliers of cane sugar to Britain expressing our concern about the decision by Tate & Lyle to close its Liverpool refinery. You go on to say that British ministers "were taking a different line" and had pointed out that the remaining capacity of the refineries would only be some 60,000 tonnes below the actual level of inputs from ACP countries last year of around 1.1m tonnes. In fact, according to the statistics I have seen, this last figure should be nearly 1.2m tonnes. However, my real purpose in writing to you is not to advert to discrepancies in figures cited but rather to explain why the governments of the supplying countries believe that an important issue of principle is at stake if any part of the traditional quantity of sugar supplied to Britain is turned away.

The Brandt Commission have recently highlighted the problems faced by countries which are heavily dependent upon the earnings of primary products. In the case of sugar these stem from two main factors—the high protection accorded to domestic producers of beet sugar and the huge surplus within the EEC. The problems are especially severe for the countries on whose behalf I am writing. Sugar constitutes a large proportion of their exports and provides substantial employment; this is a crucial factor where the incidence of unemployment can be three to five times that of the United Kingdom.

Our governments have warned the British Minister of Agriculture and his predecessor that unless the expansion of British beet sugar production was controlled, or arrangements were made to export surplus beet sugar from Britain, there would no longer be a secure market here for the traditional quantity of cane sugar. Our fears have now proved correct and some sugar is to be denied access to this market. It is, of course, always possible to seek to argue that the first step towards the abrogation of a principle is unimportant in itself. However, we do not see it this way. The guarantees relating to access to Europe for the whole of the quantity covered by the sugar protocol are absolutely specific. In practice their implementation depends overwhelmingly on the British market. Therefore, any erosion of this must seriously undermine the basic guarantees themselves. This is why our governments are resolved to seek to dyke this breach so that the closure of the Liverpool refinery will not prove to be the beginning of the end of the existing cane sugar arrangement with all the distress that this would cause for our countries.

Yours faithfully,
CEDRIC H. GRANT,
High Commissioner for Guyana,
Guyana High Commission,
3 Palace Court, Bayswater Road,
London, W2 4LP.

Fisher report proposals

From Mr Colin Baillieu

Sir, I attended the meeting in the Albert Hall in November when the proposals of the Fisher report on Lloyds were adopted by an overwhelming majority. I subsequently attended a meeting at Lloyds itself, the purpose of which was to establish an association of external names. The meeting was a shambles and the proposed committee and a list of objectives for the proposed association were rejected. Three people, including the chairman, Lady Middleton, were—more out of a sense of politeness and embarrassment—allowed to call themselves a steering committee for the summoning of a future meeting to reconsider the formation of an association.

It is this group and many of the rejected committee who are now lobbying against the Lloyds Bill. If that last meeting, attended by less than 100 out of a United Kingdom total of 12,322, was anything to go by they have very, very little support from the general run of external members. The group contains members who have suffered considerable losses in the Sasse syndicate. This is at the heart of their opposition to clause II which will protect the Council of Lloyds from being sued.

Lady Middleton and her associates want protection, but if that is what they want they should not be in Lloyds in the first place. Lloyds is a market of high sophistication and high risk and hopefully for individuals, as well as for the country, high profits. It differs from other markets and other ways of making money in one vital respect: as a member of Lloyds you have unlimited liability. You know this before joining, and you are specifically told so on joining. Those who seek to live by unlimited liability should be prepared to die—or at least suffer—for it.

Many of the reservations about the Fisher proposals can be dealt with by the incoming council after the passing of the Bill. Clause 11, however, is fundamental and failure to incorporate it in the Bill will have two disastrous consequences.

First it will begin the petrification of the market processes and lead inevitably to the decline of the country's biggest "invisible" export earner.

Secondly, it will erode the concept of high risk and unlimited liability which ultimately is the only political justification for the sort of profits for which external members like myself join Lloyds.

My fear is that the publicity given to a small group, who are thought to be acting with a mandate which they do not possess, could endanger the work of the Fisher committee and the chairman of Lloyds who are seeking to up-date the structure of one of Britains' few profitable, thriving, high-technology and high-risk businesses.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN BAILLIEU,
Hoyle Farm, Heyshott,
Midhurst, Sussex.
January 21.

Wages councils as watchdogs

From Mr Jack Moss

Sir, Mr David Dexter of the National Federation of Self Employed and Small Businesses wants to end wages councils because they are pricing people out of the labour market (*The Times*, January 13).

He said, "Most wages councils were set up 60 years ago to deal with 'sweatshop' conditions and slave wages. They are no longer relevant in today's society". He has evidently not heard of the clothing industry.

Two personal experiences in London during October 1980—not 1920. The first: A tailors' machiner, male aged 51 on £50 for a 40-hour week.

The second: A tailor aged 61, sacked after 7½ years. The firm abandoned him—they had run out of cash. He received no holiday pay, nor wages in lieu of notice. His pay was £45 for a 40-hour week.

I would have thought that the ending of a wages council that provides a statutory right to terms and conditions, however inadequate, is better than none at all. If Mr Dexter is serious and considers his proposal a progressive one, then retrogressive must mean something better and the 1920's are not very far away.

Yours faithfully,
J. MOSS,
London District Secretary,
Furniture, Timber & Allied Trades Union,
NUFTO (London) Hall,
14 Jockey's Fields,
Holborn, London, WC1R 4BP.

Community investment

From Mr Illtyd Harrington

Sir, I doubt if John Pearce, the President of the Port of Falmouth Chamber of Commerce (January 19) and I have similar ideas on "Local Development Boards", but it was a pleasing coincidence that his views were published on the same day as the TUC advocated using pension funds through an industrial bank.

It can never be said often enough that this institution is fiscally and politically the largest unit of "local" government in Europe. Every day the GLC is involved by virtue of its financial role in an enormous number of developing and established businesses.

Greater London is, like Falmouth, in need of economic and social regeneration and so it is appropriate to commend the London Labour Party's proposals for local economic development through the best local agency, viz the GLC.

Embracing a London Enterprise Board and a Manpower Commission these Labour Party proposals and long-term financial guarantees could make a serious attempt not only to tackle residual unemployment but also to apply public money to social use. This I think would help to convince many recipients of their own superannuation fund investment that the best guarantee for pensions security is profitable investment in their own community.

And surely the safest way of securing control of "the board of directors" is the local election ballot box.

Yours sincerely,
ILLTYD HARRINGTON,
Deputy Leader of the Opposition,
Greater London Council,
Room 133,
The County Hall,
London SE1 7PB.

The treatment of customers

From Mr R. Gibbs

Sir,—I sympathize with Mr Fell ("Credit card surcharge", letters, January 19), but he has at least received an explanation, however unsatisfactory.

Last summer I toured the United States in a car rented from Hertz against their own credit card and in the course received an invoice in sterling from their Norbury office. I sent my cheque in return, enclosing a letter asking about the conversion rate which was lower than might have been expected and contrasted unfavourably with that used by Access/Mastercard for the same period. My cheque was promptly cleared but the letter was ignored.

A few weeks later I wrote again with the same result. Somewhat hurt I then wrote to the President of Hertz in Oklahoma, United States, asking whether this was really the image they wanted the public to have of them. No reply.

All this leaves Hertz competitors little to do in trying harder but I think Mrs Box's suggestion (January 20) is very pertinent—that we customers are being treated with complete contempt.

Yours faithfully,
R. F. GIBBS,
4 Chantry Hurst,
Woodcote Green,
Epsom,
Surrey.
January 20.

VAT and the tourist trade

From Mr Peter C. Cullen

Sir, Mrs Burr (January 22) is asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer to amend the law on VAT for the tourist trade in a way that is, as far as I can see, contrary to the EEC directive. "Article 13 of the Sixth Directive on Turnover Taxes, paragraph B (b), requires member states to exempt (b) the leasing or letting of immovable property excluding 1, the provision of accommodation in the hotel sector."

If Mrs Burr can persuade Brussels to amend the directive she might get some relief, but relief on repairs to property might be a better field on which to press.

Yours faithfully,
PETER C. CULLEN,
113 Tavistock Drive,
Mapperley Park,
Nottingham, NG3 5BE.

Search for the ideal small ship

From Mr E. G. Tattersall

Sir, I was most interested in the article "A big prize for the right little ship" which appeared in *The Times* (November 27, 1980). The problems Mr Julian Taylor raised with regard to speed capabilities and cost are well known and while there is no doubt that improvements in the design of the hull form could lead to marginally more speed and slightly better fuel economies, the higher performance displacement ship is still prohibitively expensive above 30 knots.

The ideal small ship, therefore, should have the following characteristics: a high speed dash capability substantially more than 30 knots with a form to minimize fuel consumption; a patrol speed, less than 20 knots of long duration being able to stay at sea for a week or more; maintenance of a good speed capability in all but the most severe conditions, say 95 per cent of the time; excellent sea keeping; able to accomodate a helicopter in a hangar; god self-defensive capabilities; adequate system for apprehension of "intruders"; minimal crew requirements; good anti-submarine warfare (ASW) performance if so configured; small enough to be produced in quantity and cost effective.

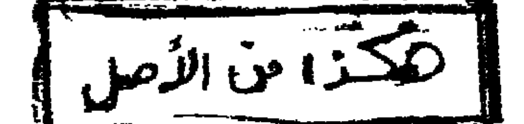
If such a "platform" were made available undoubtedly it would provide a considerable export potential. It may come as a surprise to yourself and most readers that a most latent solution to this problem has been suppressed within the United Kingdom for some years simply because of the lack of development funds and insufficient foresight to make a priority of combining a domestic offshore need with a worldwide export potential.

In 1966 Hovermarine, (now Vosper Hovermarine) registered a patent that is referred to as the "deep cushion" patent. While incorporating the basic principles previously attributed to Sir Christopher Cockerell it extended this to include a vessel with considerable cushion depth/beam ratio and was of the sidewall hovercraft type. While most publicity is directed to the amphibious hovercraft, which of itself provides unique solution to the amphibious assault vessels and in mine counter measures, the sidewall hovercraft has been slowly developing, and with only 5 per cent of the total United Kingdom government funds previously allocated to hovercraft development it now ranks as one of the most successful exporters of high speed craft in the world. These craft are presently up to 90 tons displacement.

A successful small feasibility study was undertaken on the "deep cushion" concept with some financial assistance from the government two years ago. However, to complete its development programme, the Government is only able to support it by 25 per cent which is prohibitively low for a small company which has to support a healthy export order situation for its existing products.

In the meantime, I have no doubt that a number of other foreign government agencies are substantially supporting work in this area. The United States has spent in excess of $400m looking into a much larger 3,000 ton higher performance version but not of the deep cushion type, which although potentially answering an oceanic ASW requirement was not only even too large and ambitious programme for their present purse strings but would have had little chance of an export market. Once the dust has settled from this situation reason will undoubtedly shine through and a smaller size exportable craft could evolve very quickly out of their know-how. Should we wait for this to happen—and lose an export market—and eventually even buy from them to satisfy our own requirement?

Yours sincerely,
E. G. TATTERSALL,
Director of Research & Development,
Vosper Hovermarine,
Hazel Road,
Woolston,
Southampton SO2 7GB.



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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Bears in the gold market

Where is gold's natural trading level? The question is again posed by yesterday's sharp fall in the bullion price.

It is not so much the $22 fall to $530 which prompts the question as the actual price. A number of chart analysts believed that $500 was the "floor", rather than the $530 preferred by less technical followers of the market. Nevertheless, $530 is a shock, especially since it seems unlikely to be the bottom.

Gold shares reacted predictably to all this, although they have been languishing for several weeks. Heavyweight stocks such as Anglo American Gold Investment; West Driefontein, Vaal Reefs and Consolidated Gold Fields all registered sharp falls.

Investors are taking the view that even on yields of around 20 per cent these mines do not compensate sufficiently for the probable decline in profits and slowdown in dividend growth.

Looked at purely from a market point of view, the problem is one of a dearth of *buyers. Trading in both bullion and shares* was thin. But this observation conceals a paradox: that while still professing belief in gold's basic qualities, investors have no faith in its immediate future.

It appears that every time gold rallied over the past couple of months, more buyers took the opportunity to realize profits. After *continuous selling from the Far East for* a good part of last year, American sellers are now the main depressants.

Many of these investors are still making handsome profits, but they evidently feel that with no price recovery in sight and with interest rates so high it is not worthwhile to hang on.

These, then, are the people who move the market—particularly one as thin as this—and their tacit message is that gold has few *supports at the moment other than the price* set by physical supply and demand.

As the price falls inexorably towards $500, possibly dipping below that point temporarily, we may have to adjust our *thinking to accept that the low instead of* the upper $500s is the metal's natural range.

For mines whose estimates of payable ore and investment plans assumed an average of $500 this is too close for comfort, so, unsupported by gold, shares will probably fall further as well.

UDT

Fingers crossed

Following the eleventh hour intervention of Lloyds & Scottish in the bidding for United Dominions Trust, it seems as though UDT's board is keeping its fingers crossed that the situation will sort itself out without it

Mr Leonard Mather, chairman of UDT (left) and Mr George Duncan, chairman of Lloyds & Scottish.

having to decide between L&S and the Trustee Savings Bank, the original bidders last August.

In keeping silent about the merits or otherwise of the L&S solution, the board is evidently hoping that a referral to the Monopolies Commission will take the matter *out of its hands.*

Shareholders in UDT then will just have to hold their breathe a little longer. But with UDT's shares currently about a tenth below L&S terms worth 55p a share, the market at least is sceptical about L&S's chances of success and that, if it does get the green light, that the TSB will be able *to come back with a more attractive offer* than its earlier one to take over 75 per cent of UDT's hire purchase business and leave the rump to soldier on in a rather undefined form.

Whether or not one of the other clearers—*and Barclays must be the front runner in view of its earlier links with UDT*—will come to the TSB's help must also be doubtful although there is little doubt that the rounding out of LS's business if the deal goes through will make it a more serious competitor to the clearing bank hire purchase companies which now dominate the market.

Given JDT's tortuous past, the L&S solution is by far the cleaner of the two bids, particularly if it can give assurances to staff on the question of redundancies. As *it is the chances of the TSB being allowed* by the authorities to make a full scale bid are remote since only recently has it been allowed to spread its wings in the banking sphere.

Meanwhile, the delay in the TSB finalizing its terms seems to have centred on the problems of its being allowed to take over *UDT's tax losses because of the TSB's* financial structure. Interest yesterday in the hire purchase sector seemed to be switching to Wagon Finance, one of the few sizable independents left.

Bristol Evening Post

Assoc News wants the rest

Last year's NGA troubles and the recessionary collapse in classified advertising have put provincial newspaper profits on the rack, but the hard times will not last forever.

Thus for Associated Newspapers the current demise of its associate *Bristol Evening Post*, languishing on a 13.3 per cent yield with the shares at 105p after slipping into a marginal loss at the interim stage, *this is an irresistible opportunity.*

BEP's lowly market status enables Associated with its 190p a share offer to offer a fancy premium—almost four-fifths —yet the 71 per cent of the shares it does *not already own in an ungeared provincial* group at around asset value.

And with the green light from the Monopolies authorities—Associated with effectively a stake of more than 50 per cent in *BEP*'s main trading subsidiary is already adjudged a proprietor—the Bristol board may have a fight on its hands if it decides to oppose the move at its meeting on Thursday.

However, it should be noted that *BEP* made profits of £2.6m last year at the end of a four-year period of steady growth and *having just won planning permission* for its old printing works in Silver Street, Bristol, could be set for something of a windfall. Once the recession is over 190p may well look like a bargain price.

● *Moneybroking has been one of the best businesses to be in for the past year or so. It is a business that largely depends on volatility of currencies and interest rates and on volume and there has been plenty of both. Costs are the otherside of the equation but money brokers that have an international spread suffer less from inflation than purely home-based ones. This is one lesson that is emerging from the interim results of Mercantile House Holdings.*

For the half year to October profits before tax rose by 84 per cent to £2.61m. Even stripping out recent acquisitions which contributed only about £200,000 for the last few weeks of the period leaves underlying growth comfortably above 70 per cent. While Mercantile is diversifying fast from pure money broking this activity still accounted for between two-thirds and three-quarters of the profits.

With the full contribution of the recent United States acquisitions—all involved in financial services—Mercantile is heading for profits of around £6m this year. With the shares at 540p the prospective p/e ratio is slightly over 13 while the yield is over 4 per cent. The considerable growth potential has not been lost on the market but even at this price the shares look good for the long-term.

The situation at R. P. Martin where talks with Bierbaum have now broken off is altogether different. The shares at 145p are backed more by hopes on action on possible bid than on the admittedly good short-term potential.

Peter Hill discusses the Government's fresh cash hand-out to BL

Help Sir Keith dared not refuse

Sir Michael Edwardes's request *for £1,140m to carry* through the BL recovery programme to the elusive point of profitability has been with the Government for some months *now. The arguments have raged* in the Cabinet over whether he should be given all he wanted in one go, whether strings should be attached or whether he should have a "drip feed".

It was never really in doubt that he would get the money that is necessary if the country's only domestic motor manufacturer is to survive in any form at all. Certainly, the poor financial record and productivity in BL Cars (down 4 per cent last year compared with 1979) and the "Longbridge affair", which led to the dismissal of eight workers and which very nearly started a damaging strike, have caused a few palpitations in and out of Whitehall.

But Sir Michael's style of management, while it may not be everyone's cup of tea, has brought a greater sense of realism to life inside BL. The Metro launch has been more successful than either he or the Government might once have expected (10.5 per cent market share last month). The model development programme, *including the collaborative venture with Honda to be launched later this year as the Triumph Acclaim, and the important* LC 10 development programme for the medium-size family of *cars, make the prospectus* attractive.

As ministers contemplated *the consequences of not acceding* to the Edwardes request and the proposals outlined in *the corporate plan, the latter* became all the more convincing, with unemployment rising inexorably toward the 3 million figure, Whitehall established beyond all reasonable doubt that the social costs (forgetting the political odium), which a denial or a conditional approval would have generated, could not be tolerated.

One recent independent study suggested that a decision to close the company down totally — and not even the most ardent interventionists in the Tory party consider that either desirable or feasible — would lead directly to 700,000 more unemployed and affect many more people indirectly through the loss of business to importers.

There was also another factor to consider — the effect on the British steel industry of a rundown of BL. Fewer vehicles to build mean less steel and more plant closures and redundancies in the steel industry *with their attendant social* costs.

So the BL chairman has *secured the bulk of the re*quired government finance for the recovery plan. This will in*clude, in addition to the* £1,300m already committed since 1975, a further £620m in additional equity in the coming financial year and £370m in 1982-83.

It seems very likely that Sir Michael will also get the £150m he needs for 1983-85.

BL is planning to de-centralize its decision-making to operating units—BL Cars, the profitable Land-Rover operation, Unipart and the Leyland group. Careful monitoring will be carried out by the BL board, with the Government (or rather the Department of Industry) watching the financial performance of the company.

Sir Keith Joseph, in deference *to the monitoring role envis*aged, has belatedly decided to transfer formally the BL port*folio from the NEB to the* Industry Department once the Industry Bill, now before Par*liament*, has been enacted. That transfer, advocated 15 months ago when Sir Keith took Rolls-Royce away from the NEB, received the endorsement of Sir John King, the retiring chairman of the NEB last night.

Further collaboration with other manufacturers is foreseen by Sir Michael as an integral part of the recovery programme with the aim of eventually removing dependence on the Government. The phraseology of the BL plan suggests that something much larger than a straightforward agreement on components or assembly is being actively canvassed.

Of course, Sir Michael is hopeful of securing additional loans from the private sector and further proceeds over the period of the plan are expected to amount to about £70m.

The plan has been based on the assumption that United Kingdom competitiveness will deteriorate still further this year. The car market will decline by an extra estimated 7 per cent in 1981, posing more problems. So substantial losses are in prospect this year *and next for BL Cars*, with a further loss in Leyland Group (trucks and buses) this year *and a modest profit thereafter.*

For his part, the BL chairman has given solemn (though *not binding) assurances to Sir* Keith which have a slightly tougher ring to them than a similar asurance which he gave a year ago. This was that if circumstances arose that compromised the achievement of the objectives of the corporate plan it would be the subject of a thorough-going review with consequent implications for continued government funding.

Sir Michael has agreed to stay on for a further 12 months when his present contract expires at the end of this year, which must be a great relief to the Secretary of State for Industry. But whether BL will be profitable when the Government faces the next general election is another matter.

Peter Norman

Steel: can the Belgians and Luxembourg cooperate?

Brussels

Ten days ago Belgium's struggling steel industry seemed to be hopelessly split into a num*ber of fairly small companies* almost all of which are making heavy losses.

Now, after a welter of announcements, consultations and negotiations punctuated by *strikes in the country's two* biggest steel concerns, cabinet ministers and industrial leaders *are talking of a giant alliance* that may lead one day to a steel-making group embracing the industries of Belgium, Luxembourg and possibly Holland.

Half forgotten schemes for transnational cooperation are being dusted off and hastily revised to serve as models for a brighter future.

Confronted with operating losses running at an estimated 1,000m francs (£13m) a month, Belgium's two largest steel making concerns, Cockerill of Liège and Hainault-Sambre of Charleroi, have announced that they intend to merge. The scheme, which has been devised by the two chief executives, M Julien Charlier of Cockerill and M Albert Frère of Hainault-Sambre, would create a company in the French speaking southern part of Belgium with an annual production capacity of eight million tonnes.

So far only the most basic details of the scheme have been agreed. Even though the state is a big shareholder in both companies, it seems that Mr Willy Claes, the Economics Minister, was as surprised as anybody when the plan was unveiled a week ago.

The plan has yet to win trade union approval. Although M André Cools, the leader of the French speaking Socialist party, was closely involved with the idea since its inception, it appears not to have been cleared in advance with M Georges Debunne, the leader of the FGTB, the socialist trade union federation. M Debunne is a man of some power in the land, as shown by his ability to bring 80,000 people on to the streets of Brussels last Saturday to protest against the Government's austerity policy.

Perhaps for this reason the scale of the redundancies *involved in the merger is* unclear. The two companies have said that they do not need *one of their four modern* steel-making plants, while one of their three modern rolling *mills should also go. But, as* the unemployment implications of these possible closures have sunk in, *provoking strikes in* Charleroi and Liège, so the estimated number of redun*dancies has magically declined.*

Early estimates spoke of the merger costing 4,500 of the present 27,000 jobs at the two companies, involving perhaps 3,000 dismissals. The latest figures suggest that the total number of dismissals may stay below the 2,000 mark.

Such uncertainties have not prevented public discussion of the steel industry's problems from moving on to a new plane.

The first reports of the proposed merger between Cockerill and Hainault-Sambre coincided with a long planned meeting between representatives of the Belgian and Luxembourg governments and the top executives of the two countries' steel companies. The meeting was called to review the possibilities for co-operation in the light of a pact made in December, 1978, when it was agreed that the Luxembourg steel industry, which owns the modern and largely profitable Sidmar company in the Flemish speaking town of Ghent in Belgium, should be involved in plans to restructure the Belgian steel industry.

Arbed, the Luxembourg steel making concern, was expected to cooperate with the "Triangle" group of companies around Charleroi which at the end of last year formally merged to become Hainault-Sambre.

The hoped for cooperation was less than perfect. Just as restructuring inside Belgium ran into a series of obstacles, so relations with Luxembourg failed to prove as harmonious as either the Belgian government or steel industry might have wished.

Suspicions grew that the industry in the Grand Duchy, which is more efficient than that in the south of Belgium, was trying to steal a competitive march on the plants of Liège and Charleroi. By the beginning of this year Belgium was alive with rumours that Luxembourg was planning to step up the competitive pace by building a cold rolled strip mill at Dudelange with an annual production capacity of 1.2 million tonnes.

Luxembourg has now assured Belgium that such plans do not exist—the capacity at Dudelange will be no more than 650,000 tonnes a year.

The coincidence of this pledge and the plans to merge the Belgian steel groups appear to have breathed new life into the old plans for cooperation. A working group has been set up to report by the end of the first week of February on which parts of the Belgian and Luxembourg steel industries could operate efficiently if demand should ever return to 85 per cent of normal level and *how best to exploit cooperation* between the two sides at a commercial and technical level.

*This news has prompted sug*gestions of a "Belux" grouping, which would link the *merged Cockerill-Sambre group*, Arbed and Sidmar—companies that in 1980 produced just under 15 million tonnes of steel. If the entire Arbed group is included in the calculations (the company controls most of the Saar steel industry), the Belux combine produced 19.5 million tonnes of steel last year. An eventual link up with Holland would add the steel making and marketing capacity of Hoogovens in Ijmjiden and presumably the Hoesch steel group of Dortmund, which with Hoogovens forms the transnational Estel group.

A flawed history of cooperation between Belgium and Luxembourg before and after the December, 1978, pact shows how difficult transnational efforts and restructuring can be. The strikes that broke out last week in Liège and Charleroi illustrate the strength of local, not to say, tribal interests in steel making communities.

But the comings and goings of the past week suggest that the merger of Cockerill and Hainault-Sambre—if it succeeds —could have a significance extending far beyond the grimy depressed industrial area that lines the banks of the Meuse and Sambre rivers between Liège and Charleroi. It could be the beginning of a much bigger concentration in the European steel industry, affecting not only the Benelux countries but West Germany as well.

How the butter market is melting away

Nobody in the food trade regards 1981 with more apprehension than those who make their livings from butter. Consumption has dropped steadily *since the mid-1970s and the* slide looks like continuing this year.

Just over five years ago some half-pound packets of butter cost no more in supermarkets than the same amount of margarine. Since 1975 margarine has doubled in price and butter has increased *fourfold.*

In that year butter held a 65 per cent share of what is described with unappetizing accuracy as "the yellow fats market". By the end of 1980 butter's share had dropped *to* a record low of 41 per cent.

The latest government survey of food consumption by households shows that butter consumption has dropped by almost a quarter by weight in the past five years. In the late summer of 1975 families were eating *twice as much* butter as margarine, but in the comparable period last year they were eat*ing almost* equal amounts of each.

The change in the pattern *has been a great success for* the margarine publicity machine. Butter suppliers have *been forced to accept* a steady decline in consumption as prices have risen. Consumption is thought to have fallen to 340,000 tonnes last year from 380,000 tonnes in 1979. This year it may be little more than 320,000 tonnes.

The high price of butter is *not the only deterrent to shop*pers who want something to spread on their bread. Some *have been put off by publicity* about cut-price sales of the EEC butter "mountain" to the *Soviet Union* and the Middle East.

Householders are understand*ably reluctant to pay a high* price for something which, with the help of their taxes, is being offered at bargain rates abroad.

Fears about possible dan*gers in a heavy consumption* of animal fats have also affected butter sales. Fat in food, and *fatness in its purchasers* are no longer fashionable.

Butter not only contains a higher proportion of fat than any other grocery, it is also the type of saturated fat that has been associated in much research with a high incidence of heart disease. Cattle breeders have not yet managed to rear an animal for commercial use with much polyunsaturated fat *in it.*

Manufacturers of margarine can allay consumer fears by using fats, *like maize oil* and soyabean oil, which are high in polyunsaturated fats. Some supermarket chains charge less than 25p a packet for such products, while their cheapest *butter costs almost 40p* and the better known brands 42p or 43p.

Butter suppliers now face the annual political hurdle of the EEC farm price review. Community farm ministers face demands from farmers for large price rises on milk, which is *virtually the sole raw material* of butter.

The minister will also review the EEC subsidy without which butter might cost an extra 3p a packet in British shops. It is highly improbable, however, that the Community would risk the drop in sales that would result from a simultaneous rise in price and removal of the subsidy.

Nevertheless, Mr Eric Coombs, managing director of *the British subsidiary* of Butterdane, which distributes Danish butter in this country, says that there has been "talk of a draft EEC Commission proposal suggesting that the subsidy be eliminated because it is not increasing consumption.

"To take the subsidy away would mean average butter at over 50p a pack. With margarine at 25p or so, the recent decline in butter consumption would simply accelerate."

There will be strong upward pressure on prices in Britain as long as sterling continues to strengthen against currencies in the European monetary system. The benefit of that strength to food importers is eliminated by a so-called "EEC tax on food", the device with which the EEC compensates for the high value of the pound. This rose slightly yesterday and now adds almost 13p a pound to the price of butter in Britain.

Farmers claim, however, that the "tax" has not given them adequate protection against one of the highest infla*tion rates in Europe. They are* confident of winning price rises when EEC farm prices for 1981 *are decided in the spring.*

A small rise in the price of butter is therefore inevitable, even if the subsidy is maintained.

The market will meanwhile remain crowded, with suppliers from at least six countries competing for sales in Britain. Dairy lobbies in the EEC failed in their attempts in the 1970s to have New Zealand butter excluded from the British market. Although the New Zealand share for the early 1980s has not yet been decided by EEC authorities, a large New Zealand presence is certain.

At the end of last year New Zealand still supplied 30 per cent of all butter sold in Britain. The strongest British brand, Country Life held only 10 per cent.

Domestic suppliers have, however, increased their share of the British market in recent years, with the main losers being exporters in Holland, France, West Germany and the Irish Republic. They all want *more money to promote and* discount their brands in Britain. But profits are so meagre and *demands from farmers so insis*tent that they have little chance of finding it.

Hugh Clayton

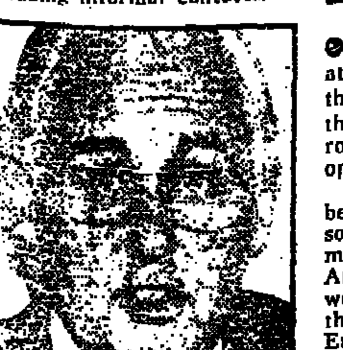
Business Diary: Tories meddle more • Treasurers' tryst

Former Post Office chairman Sir William Barlow last night made a timely reference to the degree of intervention and *interference which politicians* find irresistible in their dealings with the nationalized industries.

He was giving a lecture on "The problems of managing nationalized industries" arranged by the Royal Institute of Public Administration.

The former luminary of the Nationalized Industries Chairmen's group was speaking hours after Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, had announced that the Government was to stump up yet more cash for BL.

Sir William recalled that in eighteen months of Post Office service under a Labour Government he had met the Industry Secretary four times and the Minister for Industry three. But in sixteen months of the Conservative Government he had nineteen *meetings* with Sir Keith and twelve with the minister, excluding informal contacts.



Sir William Barlow.

It was reunion time at the weekend for two men who, having moved into the big time since they first met, are now trying to do the same for their calling.

Dennis Weatherstone is the Londoner who is now chairman of the executive committee of Morgan Guaranty, the big New York merchant bank, and the meeting in London was with Alan Clements, now finance director of ICI.

Weatherstone was here at Clements's behest to deliver a foundation paper, "International Finance and the Corporate Treasurer", to a new professional body of which Clements is president, the Association of Corporate Treasurers.

They first met in the 1960s when ICI was raising funds, notably a $200m credit to buy a United States company, Atlas Chemicals. Weatherstone was then number two in Morgan Guaranty's London office and Clements further down the ICI ladder than his present rung as a deputy chairman.

Alan Clements.

Dennis Weatherstone.

The reunion was not, however, the high spot of the week for Weatherstone. Earlier he had been at the Albert Hall to see his daughter Cheryl, 16, come third to champion gymnast Mandy Gornall and Jackie Bevan in the Champions Cup meeting.

Not all the movement was at the Albert Hall, however. Weatherstone père had to show some lightness on his feet when it came to his speech.

He was to have told the 200 or so top corporate treasurers in his audience that so far no commercial bank had built a loan book in SDRs. He had to change his speech to say that his own bank, Morgan Guaranty, was that very day marketing the first bank syndicated loan in SDRs—200m SDRs for the Swedish government, handled through London.

● Some years ago Business Diary reported on the success a distillery was having with a novel kind of burglar alarm. Taking their cue from the story of the geese on the Roman Capitol, George Ballantine and *Sons of Dumbarton built up a* guard of 100 white geese to protect £300m worth of Scotch whisky at their Dumbuck warehouses.

The idea originated with a former managing director who remembered that the Roman geese gave clamorous warning of the Gauls' nocturnal attack in 390 BC. The Dumbuck geese had repelled all raiders since 1959.

Now Dumbuck has had a break-in. Sixteen cases of prime Scotch have been stolen, but the geese, Business Diary is relieved to report, were in no way to blame.

Their numbers are somewhat depleted at present and the birds are penned at strategic posts around only half the warehouses.

The thieves, predictably perhaps, broke in at a place, on the other side of the road, where security arrangements were in the hands of mere men.

● Commodity markets are attracting new firms and faces these days and none more so than the International Petroleum Exchange, due to begin operations on April 6.

A brokerage firm has just been started by *David Anderson*, formerly with leading commodity brokers Commodity Analysts, E. D. & F. Man, the well known sugar traders, and those City luminaries, The English Association Group, providers of financial services.

The new firm, called Anderson Man has paid up capital of £300,000, contributed equally by the three founders. David Anderson is managing director and Richard Cox Johnson, managing director of The English *Association, is chairman.*

Ian Mackinnon, Anderson Man's dealing director, says that the firm will act for clients in all markets, not only in London but in New York and Chicago as well. The partners brought clients with them to the new venture.

Another firm, Premier Man, has been set up specifically as a floor trader on the International Petroleum Exchange. The IPE, which has been in formation for a couple of years, will initially offer futures contracts for heating oil, similar to the successful exchange in New York.

Premier Man, a trader rather than a broker, is a joint venture company between the oil producer Premier Consolidated Oilfields, commodity traders E. D. & F. Man and the broker Anderson Man (just to confuse you). The chairman is Roland Shaw, the American chairman of Premier Consolidated, and David Anderson is a director.

Out of place: reader Bill Knight writes from Maiduguri, Nigeria, to tell me of a sign he saw advertising "The Universal Institute of Hotel Management and Food Administration. I was called to serve the Almighty and I said unto Him yes, My Lord". I bet the dish of the day is Manna.

Ross Davies

Stock markets

Bargain hunters push equities higher

A small amount of institutional suppodt in a thin market ensures that the new account got of fto a firm start yesterday.

Turnover was again describe dby dealers as low but bargain hunters who felt the market had now been oversold were soon on the scene, forcing prices sharply higher. The absence of sellers in the new account was another contributory factor as most decided to hold on to their stock after the improvement in sentiment.

Investors, frightened of being left behind, gave a boost to electricals and insurance shares while oils made a welcome return to favour.

The only real weakness was again see nin gold shares which fell heavily on the renewed weakness in the bullion price, down $23 at $529, on reports of heavy selling of gold in Hongkong and the Far East. Nevertheless, jobbers described selling at limited with the thin conditions not helping.

The *FT* Index, which was 1.9 higher at 10 am, closed at its high point for the day up 8.2 at 463.9.

Gilts made a hesitant start after earlier weakness on Friday night when the Government Broker announced a new £1,000m "tap". Falls of around £⅝ were reported as investors sold stock to raise cash for the new issue which is expected to be heavily subscribed. However, buyers appeared after hours and prices quickly recovered in the thin conditions.

In longs, there were rises of about £⅛ to £¼, but at the shorter end falls of £¼ were recorded mainly on lack of interest.

Leading industrials spent a rather quiet session but prices hardende in line with the rest of the market. ICI led the way up with a 4p rise at 288p along with Glaxo at 256p. Smaller rises were seen in Beechams at 169p, Unilever at 443p, Fisons at 130p and GKN at 141p. But fears of lay-offs in the motor industry clipped 1p from Dunlop at 62p and 3p from Lucas at 165p.

Elsewhere, there were plenty of special situations to keep investors' interests alive, including Associated Newspapers' bid for the remainder of the Bristol Evening Post it does not already own.

Shares of BEP leapt to 185p after the 190p a share offer but retreated to close at 168p amid fears of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission reference. This was a net rise of 62p. Associated ended the day 5p lighter at 235p.

Shares of Reed International hardened 1p to 184p ahead of figures today, which in turn boosted Bowater 5p to 191p.

Speculative attention was also directed at I. Barget, up 28p at 118p, as hopes that Tinnox was about to launch a full-scale bid. Pritchard Services also enjoyed a 4p rise to 124p but R. P. Martin eased 5p to 174p on news that talks with Bierbaum, which holds 15 per cent, had broken down.

Davy Corporation was another weak market, slipping another 4p to 149p on the back of its recent decision to sue its unwanted United States predator, Enserch. However, shares of Renwick were suspended after hours at 78p as talk of a bid by Kangra did the rounds.

Awaiting figures later today, Inchcape slid 8p to 440p while John Brown expanded 6p to 62p ahead of interim figures on Friday.

Meanwhile, press comment helped Horizon Travel 10p to 148p, Avon Rubber 3p to 90p, Parkland Textile "A" 2p to 39p and Epicure 3p to 27p.

News of the death of one of its directors failed to halt the advance of Heron Motor which rose 2p to 29½p.

Buyers raised the shares in Godfrey Davis 3p to 161p on the argument that within a few weeks they will be getting 115p a share cash as Europcar pays for the acquisition of Davis's short-term car rental business. So the rest of Davis is effectively on offer at only 46p a share. RIT indirectly holds nearly 30 per cent of Davis.

In foods, Tate & Lyle continued to revel in recent figures, climbing 5p to 165p while the thin conditions also helped Somportex 50p to 770p and Wheeelers Restaurants 43p to 328p. Associated Dairies, reporting tomorrow, was 5p cheaper at 185p.

Stores held on to their earlier gains with most of the majors closing at the top. Marks & Spencer gained 3p to 117p, Burton Group 11p to 109p and GUS 'A' 12p to 470p.

Hopes of an imminent cut in MLR encouraged builders. Blue Circle closed 4p dearer at 344p, RMC 5p at 169p, Tunnel 4p to 254p and BPB 8p to 240p.

Selective buying in a thin market saw a further flurry in electricals. Racal, reporting tomorrow, jumped 8p to 315p while GEC rose 10p to 595p on a bullish brokers circular. Improvements were also seen in Plessey of 6p to 273p, and Ferranti 15p to 475p, while among second liners Kode Int advanced 13p to 253p and Muirhead 8p to 78p.

Mercantile House rallied 20p to close at 570p after interim figures, while a return to the black had troud Riley 3p dearer at 52p. But the half time announcement from Kakuzi resulted in a 5p fall to 50p.

Insurance shares featured the placing of 4.75m shares in Royal Insurance, the rump of its recent £113m rights issue. The shares were placed at 345p or 6p below yesterday's closing levels. GRE rose 8p to 300p, General Accident 8p to 298p and Eagle Star 7p to 248p.

Oils recovered on rumours that President Reagan was about to deregulate oil prices. Rises among the majors had BP 12p higher at 402p, Ultramar 8p to 483p, Lasmo 5p to 674p and Tricentrol 6p to 302p. Among second liners KCA International rose 6p to 163p and IC Gas 10p to 238p while rumours of a gis find on the Isle of Wight had Carless Capel up 12p at 175p and Candecca 11p heavier at 215p.

Sharp falls in gold shares saw Randfontein £6 3/16 to £24 15/16, Western Holdings £3¾ to £26⅜ and Buffersfontein £2 1 16 to £14¼.

Equity turnover on January 23 was £129.866m (18,027 bargains). The most active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Ultramar, BP, Premier Oil, European Ferries, GEC, ICI, Royal Insuprance, Land Securities, Midland Bank, De Beers, RTZ, Distillers and Allied Breweries.

Traded options had a dull ay in spite of better equity prices. Only 665 contracts were traded, with Lonrho and ICI seeing the most business.

Traditional options had a quiet day. Calls were arranged in Elsburg Gold at 24p, Britannia Arrow at 5p and Simmer and Jack at 25p.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Bank Leumi UK (F)	—(—)	0.51‡(0.34‡)	—(—)	7(5.76)	26/3	10.1(8.56)
Cooper Inds (I)	9.05(12.08)	0.49*(0.38)	—(—)	—(0.6)	—	—(1.25)
Derby Trust (G)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	11.65†(10.63†)	28/2	20.26(17.82)
Hallite (I)	4.2(3.81)	0.34(0.3)	8.5(7.6)	2.5(2.5)	1/4	—(7.75)
Mercantile House (I)	15.8(9.42)	2.61(1.42)	19.23(13.03)	5(4)	—	—(12.5)
Midland Tst (I)	—(—)	0.21(0.2)	3.58(3.43)	2.4(2.4)	2/3	—(6.3)
Piccadilly Thtre (F)	0.17(0.18§)	0.1(0.12§)	5.1(6.9§)	2(1.5§)	3/4	2(1.5§)
Stroud Riley (I)	3.58(3.69)	0.23(0.11)	—(—)	1.0(0.5)	9/3	—(0.5)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. * = Loss. † = Correction. ‡ = Net profit, after tax and transfer to inner reserves. § = For nine months.

Return to profits at Stroud, Riley

By Margareta Pagano

Management reshuffles and vigorous restructuring over the last year have succeeded in turning round the lossmaking Bradford textile manufacturer Stroud, Riley, Drummond.

In the half year to September the group reported pretax profits of £237,000 compared with £115,000 last time. Sales were marginally down from £3.69m to £3.58m. In the last full year to March 31, 1980, the group lost £62,000. After tax, losses were £194,000. This included an extraordinary item of £108,000. The interim gross dividend is doubled to 1.42p. The shares gained 3p to 52p on the news.

Mr Stefan Simmonds, chief executive and deputy chairman, said the results reflected the work of the new management team and restructuring carried out in the last year. Trading conditions had continued to be tough but by cutting oveheads and using assets the group was able to make headway.

Last year's results included extraordinary costs for redundancies and closures, when the workforce was halved to 200 employees and its spinning business closed. Although demand for the group's staple manufactures of worsted suitings and knitted fabrics has not picked up, margins have improved.

There is a "strong probability" that Mr Simmonds, the largest shareholder with 29.9 per cent of the equity, will soon take up his option for a further 9.2 per cent of the shares, at 42p each.

Renwick suspended amid rumours of Kangra bid

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Shares in Renwick Group were suspended yesterday at 78p, pending an announcement, amid speculation that the mysterious Kangra International Holdings is about to bid. Renwick's merchant bankers, Samuel Montagu, hoped to make an announcement today.

Kangra, a Hongkong-based company, has built up a 27.5 per cent stake in Renwick by aggressive market purchases through stockbrokers A. J. Bekhor, paying as much as 85p a share. This buying, combined with earlier large purchases by Bekhor on behalf of Uto Bank of Zurich, scuppered the agreed 65p a share bid that AAH, the industrial holding company, made for fuel distribution to travel agents group Renwick.

AAH's offer lapsed earlier this month, although it still holds over 10 per cent of Renwick. Uto Bank holds 22.5 per cent on behalf of six clients said to be unrelated and 200,000 shares itself.

Mr Clifford Wilton, chairman of Renwick Group.

Several attempts to discover the prime movers behind Kangra, an off-the-shelf company formed last April, came to nothing, but Renwick directors are thought to have met Kangra yesterday. Under Takeover Panel rules Kangra would have to bid not less than the highest price it has paid in the market, suggesting a price of at least £7.6m for the ordinary shares in Renwick.

AAH, which owns Western Fuels in partnership with Renwick, recently rejected an approach for its stake, thought to come from Kangra, so that "we can talk to them from a position of strength", Mr William Pybus, the chairman, said.

Mr Pybus said it was intolerable that the people behind both Kangra and the Uto holdings were unknown and both the Stock Exchange and Takeover Panel should be much tougher. The Takeover Panel looked into the Uto shares but found no evidence of a concert party.

Hallite rises 13pc midway

Hallite Holdings, the precision seal maker has once again sidestepped the engineering recession. Sales in the half year to November 1 rose by 11 per cent in value to £4.2m while pretax profits went ahead by 13 per cent to £343,000. The interim dividend stays at 3.58p gross. Earnings a share rose from 7.6p to 8.5p. The group does a lot of business in deep coal mining and oil well drilling, and it has recently launched new lines.

It is also clear that Hallite has succeeded in controlling costs. In the financial year to May 3, 1980 it achieved a 14 per cent cut in manning and in his latest interim statement, Mr James Gordon, the chairman, mentions continuing action to cut overheads: "all employees are adopting a flexible attitude for improving productivity".

But recession is catching up. Sales by volume in the latest half year fell. Hallite Plastics and Hallite Minns did not do well. Orders are down and the signs point to smaller profits for the full year to May 2. Even so, dealers were pleased with yesterday's news and the shares rose 2p to 114p where the yield is nearly 10 per cent.

Briefly

Westminster Property Group: Mr A. P. Ravenhill (chairman) says in annual report that with falling interest and inflation rates, he looks forward with some confidence to the future even if 1981 has its difficulties.

Oakwood Group: Mr E. D. Chambers, chairman, says that the current order book remains at a satisfactory level for the civil and electrical engineering activities, and whilst continuing difficult trading conditions are affecting wholesaling activities, a strong financial position provides a sound platform for any upturn should it occur during the year ahead.

Grants of Croydon: Mr Alec Grant, chairman, states that trading in the second half year is up by 5 per cent and although the January sale is a record one the period leading up to Christmas was disappointing. With continual reappraisal and cut-back of unprofitable activities, a reduction in expenses should help in what he hopes is a temporary depression in retail trade.

Consolidated Gold Fields: On January 23, De Beers and Anglo American Corp each acquired an interest in an additional 75,000 ordinary shares, so that each now has an indirect interest in 50 per cent of a total of 53.88m ordinary shares. The De Beers-Anglo stake in Consolidated Gold now stands at about 29 per cent of its 186m shares.

Bambers Stores: Newly-acquired subsidiary Evan Roberts has agreed with an institution for sale and lease-back of retail department store at the corner of Queen Street and Kingsway, Cardiff. Competition is arranged for February 23 and total consideration will be £3.4m cash.

Piccadilly Theatre: Turnover for year to September 30, 1980, £172,000 (£188,000 for previous nine months). Pretax profits, £100,000 (£127,500). Dividend, 2.85p (2.14p) gross.

Midland Trust: Pretax income for half-year to December 31, 1980, £216,000 (£207,000). Interim dividend unchanged.

Winterbottom Trust: NAV a share on January 23, 363.6p, after deduction of prior charges at par and 376.7p, after deduction of prior charges at market value.

Marley: Through its subsidiary, Marley Buildings, Marley has agreed to acquire the domestic gas-flue block business of True Flue Ltd.

Norcros: An extraordinary meeting of Norcros approved a resolution increasing the authorized capital from £26.5m to £34m, thus permitting the one-for-four rights issue of ordinary shares announced on January 9, 1981, to proceed.

Brooke Bond—Mallinson-Denny

Brooke Bond Liebig's offer for Mallinson-Denny has been accepted for 50.35m existing ordinary shares, or 94.56 per cent. Brooke Bond owned 21.35m shares before the offer, which, together with acceptances, totals 71.71m shares, or 96.12 per cent. The preference offer was accepted for 1.54m shares, or 83.27 per cent.

Southampton hotel for Queens Moat group

Contracts have been exchanged for Queens Moat Houses to buy the Cotswold Hotel, Southampton, from Gilleys Hotels and Catering, a family-owned hotel controlled by Messrs Frank and Roger Gilley. The price will be £900,000 cash.

This first take-over of 1981 indicates Queens Moat's aim to continue to expand its commercial hotel group as rapidly as possible. The Cotswold brings the number of hotels in the commercial group to 22.

Property purchases by Anglo Metropolitan

Anglo Metropolitan Holdings has agreed to buy 50 per cent of Redington Property, Rankpert Property and Redtide Properties. The total price is £70,000 cash. These are private residential property firms whose combined portfolio comprises about 130 residential units, mainly in London suburbs.

Maguire & Paterson receive takeover bid

Maguire and Paterson, Dublin-based match manufacturers, have been notified by Allied Irish Investment Bank that True Temper (Ireland) is to make an offer of £2.10 (Irish) for every outstanding ordinary stock unit of Maguire. This values Maguire's ordinary capital at £1.85m. The offer is subject to the approval of Allegheny Ludlum Industries, the parent of True Temper, which controls 32.9 per cent of Maguire's capital.

Maguire's board is considering the offer.

Bank Leumi (UK) tops £500,000

The London-based Bank Leumi (UK) reports profits for 1980 up from £340,000 to £514,000. These are net profits, after tax and transfer to inner reserves. The total dividend, gross, is being raised from 12.24p to 14.5p. This bank is a subsidiary of Bank Leumi le-Israel BM, Israel's largest banking group.

Warning from chief of Fairdale Textiles

Fairdale Textiles' chairman, Mr P. D. Froomberg, reports in his interim statement that the outlook for the rest of the current year looks bleak, with the recession in clothing and textiles, if anything, intensifying still further.

Earlier this month, Fairdale revealed a big fall in profits for the first half-year to July 31, 1980. But the chairman is confident that Fairdale will be able to resume progress when conditions improve.

Cooper Ind omits interim after loss

By Margareta Pagano

The West Midlands engineer and stockholder, Cooper Industries, plunged into the red in the half year to October and has passed the interim dividend.

Losses of £496,000 in the six months compared with pretax profits last time of £380,000. Sales fell steeply from £12m to £9m. Last year the interim dividend was 0.85p gross.

Mr John Cooper, the chairman, blamed the "unprecedented reduction in demand for steel" for the group's losses. The downturn in demand, together with high interest rates, had hit profit margins and led to destocking within the steel industry, he said. With hopes that destocking has now ended, the group looks to a better second half, when the dividend will be reviewed. Profits from associated companies were £54,000.

Last month Cooper sold its half share of the mini-mill held jointly with F. H. Lloyd, the steel and engineering group, for £2m. The move had looked possible ever since Cooper decided not to join in a similar partnership in Lloyd's new Wednesbury mill which is now near completion. The mini-mill was only working one shift and running at a slight loss, and Cooper's decision to sell came from its assessment of the steel industry's current prospects.

Business appointments

BP Group names eight chairmen

Chairmen named by the BP Group for eight distinct international businesses and the New Ventures Group are: Mr C. C. F. Laidlaw, BP Oil International; Mr R. Bexon, BP Exploration and BP Gas; Mr P. I. Walters, BP Chemicals International; Dr J. Birks, BP Minerals International and BP Coal; Mr P. G. Cazalet, BP Nutrition and BP Detergents International; Mr R. W. Adam, BP Ventures. All appointments will take effect from March 1.

Sir Patrick Meaney becomes a director of ICI from March 1. Sir Patrick, who is managing director of Thomas Tilling, will act as a non-executive director.

Mr Alan W. Wagstaff is the new chairman and chief executive of Tootal.

Mr Graham J. Clarke has been made a director of Fairey Allday Marine, a member of the Fairey Holdings group of companies, and general manager of Fairey Allday's Gosport yard activities. He was formerly executive assistant to the chairman of British Shipbuilders.

Mr John Patterson is now sales director of Nexos (United Kingdom) and Mr Trevor Lafferty has been made field service director.

Lord Wigoder has been elected to the board of governors of The British United Provident Association.

Mr John Marsh has been made a director and chairman of Executive Resources International.

Mr Michael Bradshaw becomes managing director of Lockyer, Bradshaw & Wilson. Mr Austin Nunn and Mr Tony Ward have joined the board and Miss Aliske Webb has been made secretary.

Mr R. C. Alexander and Mr J. M. Ward become sales directors each responsible for more than 80 Bejam Freezer Food Centres. Mr B. M. Darke becomes Information Systems director. Mr B. Jackson joins Bejam Freezer Food Centres as head of the buying division. These appointments take effect from February 2.

Mr Stafford Dunn will join the board of Duffin Containers on February 1. Mr Dunn will be resident director-in-charge of the Decorprint Division of Duffin at their new factory at Somercotes, Derbyshire.

Lord Shackleton is now chairman of Anglesey Aluminium in sucession to the late Sir Mark Turner.

Two non-executive directors named by Silentnight Holdings are Mr Kenneth Bradshaw and Mr Peter Kinnear.

Mr Edward M. Cummings, executive vice-president of Continental Illinois Corp and Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago, has been named area corporate officer, Europe, for the banking company's European activities.

Mr C. M. Herridge has been made deputy managing director of Tremco.

Mr T. G. Nelms has joined the board of Bunzl Adhesive Materials (Ireland). Mr D. Scullion has been made a director of Rolex Paper Company. Mr R. A. Bradbury joins the board of Coated Specialities, Basildon, on February 1.

Mr John Stone is now a director of Williams Lea & Co.

Mr David Potter has become sales director of Clipper International.

Mr Maurice Steinhart has joined the board of the Sentinel Insurance Company.

Mr Paul Gardner has been appointed a deputy divisional chairman of the case and paper division of Mardon Packaging International.

Mr R. E. Artus has been appointed to the board of the Mercantile and General Reinsurance Company.

Mr R. S. Hargreaves has been appointed deputy chairman of J. A. Devenish and Co.

Mr Keith J. Willoughby has been appointed a non-executive director of Carreras Rothmans.

Mr Geoffrey N. H. Furzland has joined Saudi International Bank as assistant general manager responsible for treasury operations.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co	*14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rossminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 11½%, up to £50,000 12%, over £50,000 13½%.

Tollgate sells subsidiaries

Tollgate Holdings of South Africa has sold its financial and insurance subsidiaries for Rand 9.8m (about £4.5m) and R11m (£5.5m) respectively.

In addition, an amount of R27.2m, which was advanced to the financial subsidiaries has been refunded to the group.

The directors have decided to concentrate the group's endeavours on transportation operations and to distribute R48m to Tollgate shareholders.

International

Nabisco up sharply

Net profits of Nabisco, the American foods group, rose by almost a third from $99.8m to $127.8m (£53m) in the 1980 financial year, the group reported yesterday.

Sales advanced from $2,360m to $2,560m. Earnings a share rose to $3.96 from $3.10.

The 1980 profits figure includes $2.9m from the sale of a subsidiary.

Control Data ahead

Net profits of Control Data Corporation rose to $150.6m (£62.5m) in the 1980 financial year, against net profits of $124.2m in 1979, the company reported.

Turnover rose to $3,810m from $3,240m. Earnings a share advanced from $7.20 to $8.45.

French prices rise

The rate of inflation in France averaged 13.6 per cent last year after a rise of 0.9 per cent in December. Inflation for 1979 was 11.8 per cent.

هكذا من الأصل

MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER was steady at lower levels.—Afternoon.—Cash wire bars, £[illegible] a metric ton; three months £[illegible]. Sales, [illegible]. Cash cathodes, £[illegible]; three months, £[illegible]. Sales, [illegible] tonnes, all carries. Morning.—Cash wire bars, £[illegible]; three months, £[illegible]. Settlement, £[illegible]. Sales, [illegible] tons (mainly carries). Cash cathodes, £[illegible]; three months, £[illegible]. Settlement, £743.50. Sales, [illegible] tons.

TIN was steadier.—Afternoon.—Standard cash £[illegible] a tonne; three months £[illegible]. Sales, [illegible] tonnes. High grade, cash £[illegible]; three months £[illegible]. Sales, nil tonnes. Morning.—Standard cash £[illegible]; three months £[illegible]. Settlement, £[illegible]. Sales, 260 tonnes (mainly carries). High grade, cash £[illegible]; three months, £[illegible]. Settlement £[illegible]. Sales nil tonnes. Singapore tin ex-works, SM[illegible] a picul.

LEAD was barely steady.—Afternoon.—Cash £[illegible] per tonne; three months £[illegible]. Sales, [illegible] tonnes. Morning.—Cash £[illegible]; three months £[illegible]. Settlement £[illegible]. Sales, 5,0[illegible] tonnes.

ZINC was quiet.—Afternoon.—Cash £[illegible] per tonne; three months £[illegible]. Sales, 575 tonnes (mainly carries). Morning.—Cash £310.50-11; three months £[illegible]. Settlement, £311. Sales, 7,125 tonnes (mainly carries).

PLATINUM was at £197.25 ($476.[illegible]) a troy ounce.

SILVER was irregular.—Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot 5[illegible]p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 1,[illegible]); three months 5[illegible]p ([illegible]); six months, [illegible]p (1,[illegible]); one year [illegible]p (1,[illegible]). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash [illegible]; three months [illegible]. Sales, 65 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning.—Cash [illegible]; three months [illegible]. Settlement, 55[illegible]p. Sales, 55 lots.

ALUMINIUM was easier.—Afternoon.—Cash, £[illegible] per tonne; three months £[illegible]. Sales, [illegible] tonnes. Morning.—Cash £[illegible]; three months £[illegible]. Settlement £578. Sales, 3,625 tonnes.

NICKEL was quiet.—Afternoon.—Cash £[illegible] per tonne; three months £[illegible]. Sales, 72 tonnes (mainly carries). Morning.—Cash, £[illegible]; three months £[illegible]. Settlement, £[illegible]. Sales, 1[illegible] tonnes.

RUBBER was uncertain (pence per kilo).—Feb, 5[illegible]; March, [illegible]; April-June, 58.50-5[illegible]; July-Sept, 61.[illegible]; Oct-Dec, [illegible]; Jan-March, 67.[illegible]; April-June, 70.[illegible]; July-Sept, [illegible]; Oct-Dec, 76.80-7[illegible]. Sales: two at five tonnes; 313 at 15 tonnes.

RUBBER PHYSICALS were quiet (all pence per kilo).—Spot, 54.00-55.00; cifs, Feb, 59.50-60.00; March, 60.00-60.50.

COFFEE.—ROBUSTAS (£ per tonne): Jan, 970-75; March, [illegible]; May, 1,003-05; July, 1,018-20; Sept, 1,03[illegible]; Nov, 1,050-[illegible]; Jan, 1,0[illegible]. Sales, 2,508 lots including 16 options.

ARABICA (officials at 1.675): Feb, 1[illegible]; April, 140.00-1[illegible]; June, 140.00-145.00; Aug, 140.00-1[illegible]; Oct, 140.00-148.00; Dec, 140.00-148.00; Feb, 140.00-1[illegible].

COCOA was about steady (£ per metric tonne).—March, 8[illegible]; May, 8[illegible]; July, 891-92; Sept, 911-12; Dec, [illegible]; March, [illegible]; May, [illegible]. Sales, 2,725 lots.

SUGAR.—The London daily price of "raws" was £12 higher at £267.00; the "whites" price was £10 higher at £299.00. Futures were steady (£ per tonne): March, 281.25-81.50; May, 281.80-85.25; Aug, 279.00-79.50; Oct, 274.25-74.50; Jan, 251.00-56.00; March, 25[illegible]; May, 250.00-52.00. ISA prices (Jan 23): [illegible] daily, [illegible]; 15-day average, 28.22c.

SOYABEAN MEAL was quiet (£ per tonne).—Feb, 115.60-1[illegible]; April, 120.30-20.60; June, 121.60-21.70; Aug, 12[illegible]; Oct, 121.00-24.30; Dec, 124.50-26.30; Feb, 125.00-28.00. Sales, 302 lots.

WOOL (cents per kilo).—NZ Crossbreds No 2 contract was quiet. Jan, 340 one only; March, 35[illegible]; May, 365-367; Aug, 371-37[illegible]; Oct, 37[illegible]; Dec, 377-3[illegible]; Jan, 37[illegible]; March, [illegible]; May, 38[illegible]. Sales, 11 lots.

GRAIN (The Baltic).—**WHEAT.**—Canadian western red spring was unquoted; US dark northern spring No 1 14 per cent, Feb, £107.50; March, £108.00 trans-shipment east coast. US hard winter 13½ per cent: Feb, £10[illegible]; March, £102.75 trans-shipment east coast. EEC was unquoted. English feed fob Feb, £110.00; March, £112.00 east coast. **MAIZE**: French, Jan, £121.00; Feb, £122.50 east coast. South African yellow, Feb-March, £[illegible].

BARLEY: English feed fob Feb, £102.75; March, £104.00; April-June, £107.25 east coast. (All per tonne cif UK unless stated.)

London Grain Futures Market (Gafta). EEC origin.—BARLEY was easy: March, £98.55; May, £102.25; Sept, £[illegible]; Nov, £98.90. Sales, 67 lots. WHEAT was easy: March, £107.05; May, £112.20; July, £116.00; Sept, £100.15; Nov, £104.10. Sales, 1[illegible] lots.

Home-Grown Cereals Authority.—Location ex-farm spot prices:

	Other milling WHEAT	Feed WHEAT	Feed BARLEY
Eastern	£106.80	£104.20	£[illegible].00
E Midlands	£107.50	£105.10	£99.20
N East	—	—	£97.00
Scotland	—	—	£98.20

MEAT COMMISSION.—Average fatstock prices at representative markets on Jan 26. GB Cattle 84.44p per kg lw (−0.71). UK Sheep 139.75p per kg est dcw (+2.32). GB Pigs 66.04p per kg lw (+1.00). England and Wales: Cattle numbers down 2.4 per cent, average price 84.75p (−0.[illegible]); Sheep numbers down 8.7 per cent, average price 140.19p (+4.17); Pig numbers down 4.8 per cent, average price 66.04p (−1.02). Scotland: Cattle numbers up 5.6 per cent, average price 82.96p (−1.61); Sheep numbers up 57.1 per cent, average price 135.51p (+1.56); Pig numbers up 21.7 per cent, average price 67.64p (+[illegible]).

POTATOES (Gafta).—Feb, £45.00; April, £[illegible].20; Nov, £[illegible].30. Sales 350 (All of 40 tonnes each).

EEC crude steel production falls

European Common Market crude steel production, currently controlled by the EEC Commission, fell 19 per cent to 28.9 million tonnes in the last three months of 1980, according to the commission.

It had predicted a 14 per cent fall for the period over 1979 levels. Over the whole of 1980 the EEC produced 128.6 million tonnes.

A commission spokesman said production cuts imposed last October which vary for each product and take account of the past performances of individual producers, have already caused price rises.

LME metal stocks

Stocks in the London Metal Exchange official warehouses at the end of last week, (all in tonnes except silver, which is in troy ounces): copper rose 400 to 123,050; tin rose 520 to 6,840; lead fell 2,025 to 69,625; zinc rose 1,125 to 91,500; aluminium fell 1,950 to 57,050; nickel rose 24 to 4,200; and silver rose 60,000 to 26,400,000.

Discount market

There should have been a fairly substantial surplus of funds in the market yesterday, but the money was certainly not fully showing, *and the discount houses took help* on a small scale from the Bank of England

The authorities bought Treasury Bills and local authority bills direct from the houses.

Rates opened around 13½-¾ per cent and closed within bounds of 13 per cent and 13½ per cent.

Foreign exchange report

Sterling and the dollar made strong gains at the expense of other major currencies on moderately active foreign exchange markets yesterday.

The pound which was trading *in many* instances at its highest level against continental currencies for a number of years, established a record closing effective exchange index of 81.0 (overnight 80.3) as measured by the format which started on March 1, 1977.

Against the dollar too, the pound was in very good form climbing 95 points to 2.4165 compared with 2.4070 on Friday.

Dealers said they could give no reason for the continuing support for sterling apart from the well considered long term prospect for *United Kingdom oil* and to a lesser degree current high United Kingdom interest rates.

Last week's forecast by Henry Kaufman that United States interest rates *could top recent* record levels of around 21½ per cent was largely responsible for the fresh demand for dollars.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) January 26	Market rates (close) January 26	1 month	3 months
New York	$2.4040-4185	$2.4160-4170	1.03-1.13c disc	2.65-2.75c disc
Montreal	$2.8600-8770	$2.8740-8750	.88-.98c disc	2.30-2.55c disc
Amsterdam	5.32-40fl	5.38½-39½fl	2⅛-1⅝c prem	6⅛-5⅞c prem
Brussels	78.80-79.65f	79.50-60f	23-13c prem	48-38c prem
Copenhagen	15.08-29k	15.27½-28½k	305-115ore prem	235-50ore prem
Dublin	1.3155-3300p	1.3285-3295p	16-par p prem	40-20p prem
Frankfurt	4.90-97m	4.95½-96½m	2⅛-1⅝pf prem	6⅛-5⅝pf prem
Lisbon	130.20-132.00e	131.80-132.00e	03c prem-65c disc	155-205c disc
Madrid	194.80-196.70p	196.55-65p	10c prem-46c disc	15-215c disc
Milan	2329-55lr	2354-55lr	1⅞-3⅛lr disc	17⅞-20⅛lr disc
Oslo	12.76-87k	12.86-87k	395-215ore prem	790-610ore prem
Paris	11.32½-45½f	11.43½-44½f	4½-3½c prem	9-8c prem
Stockholm	10.80-91k	10.89½-90½k	840-940ore disc	2445-2545ore disc
Tokyo	485-95y	491½-92½y	2.45-2.15y prem	7.25-6.65y prem
Vienna	34.70-35.25sch	35.15-20sch	14-11gro prem	38-34gro prem
Zurich	4.42½-46½f	4.47-48f	3⅛-2⅝c prem	9-8c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to December 21, 1971 was up 0.6% to 81.0.

Other Markets

Australia	2.0345-2.0495
Bahrain	0.9070-0.9100
Finland	9.4065-9.4465
Greece	113.70-115.70
Hongkong	12.5305-12.5705
Iran	not available
Kuwait	0.6530-0.6560
Malaysia	5.3520-5.3620
Mexico	55.60-57.10
New Zealand	2.4985-2.5185
Saudi Arabia	8.0125-8.0625
Singapore	4.9940-5.0230
South Africa	1.8000-1.8150

Indices

	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes %
Sterling	81.0	−23.0
US dollar	87.8	−6.5
Canadian dollar	80.0	−18.4
Schilling	141.1	+21.4
Belgian franc	110.5	+10.3
Danish kroner	90.7	−8.8
Deutsche mark	143.5	+38.1
Swiss franc	184.3	+75.2
Guilder	121.7	+16.8
French franc	95.2	−8.6
Lira	49.3	−53.1
Yen	146.1	+42.9

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971. (Bank of England Index 100).

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.8190-1.8210
† Canada	1.1805-1.1898
Netherlands	2.2285-2.2300
Belgium	32.90-32.95
Denmark	6.3090-6.3140
West Germany	2.0537-2.0547
Portugal	54.35-54.45
Spain	81.25-81.35
Italy	973.00-973.50
Norway	5.3200-5.3250
France	4.7330-4.7350
Sweden	4.5075-4.5125
Japan	203.30-203.50
Austria	14.55-14.57
Switzerland	1.8535-1.8550

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
† Canada $1 : US $0.8403-0.8495

EMS Currency Rates

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate†	% change adjusted*	divergence limit % plus, minus
Belgian franc	39.7897	41.5660	+4.46	+0.45	1.53
Danish krone	7.7236	7.96939	+3.18	−0.83	1.64
German D-mark	2.48208	2.59426	+4.52	+0.51	1.125
French franc	5.84700	5.98161	+2.30	−1.71	1.3557
Dutch guilder	2.74362	2.81364	+2.55	−1.46	1.512
Irish punt	0.668201	0.692659	+3.66	−0.35	1.665
Italian lira	1157.79	1231.71	+6.38	+2.37	4.08

† changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes weak currency.
* adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's wider divergence limits.
Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 18½-19½; seven days, 18⅝-19⅛; one month, 19⅛-20; three months, 18½-18⅞; six months, 17⅞-17⅞.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $530.25 (an ounce); pm, $528.50 close, $529.50.
Krugerrand (per coin): $545-548 (£225.75-227).
Sovereigns (new): $133.5-135.5 (£55.25-56.25).

Money Market Rates

Bank of England MLR 14%

(Last changed 24/11/80)

Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%

Discount Mkt Loans %
Overnight: High 13¾ Low 13

Week Fixed: 14-13⅞

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	12⅞	2 months	12¾
3 months	12¹³⁄₁₆	3 months	12¹¹⁄₁₆

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

2 months	13½-13¹¹⁄₃₂	3 months	14
3 months	13⅛-13⅛	4 months	13¾
4 months	13¹⁄₁₆-12¹⁵⁄₁₆	6 months	13⅝
6 months	12⅞-12¾		

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	15½-15½	7 months	14-13¾
2 months	15⅝-15⅜	8 months	14-13¾
3 months	14⅞-14⅝	9 months	13⅞-13⅝
4 months	14⅛-14⅜	10 months	13⅞-13⅝
5 months	14⅛-13⅞	11 months	13⅞-13⅝
6 months	14-13¾	12 months	13½-13¼

Secondary Mkt. £CD Rates (%)

1 month	14½-14⅜	6 months	13⅜-13¼
3 months	14¹⁄₁₆-13¹⁵⁄₁₆	12 months	13¹⁄₁₆-12¹⁵⁄₁₆

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	14⅛-14⅛	3 months	14¼
7 days	14⅛-14⅛	6 months	13⅞
1 month	14⅛-14⅛	1 year	13⅞

Interbank Market (%)
Overnight: Open 14⅛-14½ Close 14

1 week	14⅛-14½	6 months	13¹⁄₁₆-13⁷⁄₁₆
1 month	14⁵⁄₁₆-14³⁄₁₆	9 months	13⁷⁄₁₆-13⁵⁄₁₆
3 months	14⁵⁄₁₆-14³⁄₁₆	12 months	13⁵⁄₁₆-13³⁄₁₆

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)
3 months 14⅛ 6 months 14

Finance House Base Rate 15½%

Wall Street

New York, Jan 26.—Oil and precious metals issues led a broad stock market decline on the New York Exchange in moderate trading as investors awaited interest rate and fiscal policy developments.

The Dow Jones industrial average, closed 1.28 points down to 938.1. Declines led advances nine to five as turnover slowed to over 35 million shares from 37,220, Friday.

The precious metal group was hurt by a sharp fall in bullion prices. Comex gold futures closed down the $25 limit and the spot January contract well $30. The oil group continued to be hurt by profit taking.

Volume leader Texaco dropped 1⅞ to 42⅝. Last week it reported lower fourth quarter net. Union Oil of California eased ⅝ to 39⅛, but Atlantic Richfield added ⅛ to 59⅝. Both reported higher fourth quarter net and Arco raised its dividend. Mobil lost ⅛ to 77⅞. Standard Oil of California two to 93⅝ and Cities Service 2⅛ to 47⅝.

In the precious metal group, Asa dropped 3⅞ to 53⅛, Dome mines 3⅞ to 76⅛, Homestake four to 53⅛, Hecla Mining 3⅛ to 28⅛, Sunshine Mining 1⅛ to 14 and Engelhard Minerals 2⅛ to 46⅛. Phelps Dodge lost one to 33⅞, Inco ⅛ to 19 and Alcoa ⅞ to 61⅛.

	Jan 26	Jan 23
Allied Chem	49½	49⅝
Allied Stores	21¼	21½
Allis Chalmers	34	34
Alcoa	61⅛	62
Amax Inc	41	41½
Amerada Hess	41	41
Am Airlines	10	9⅞
Am Brands	77½	77⅞
Am Broadcast	27⅝	27⅞
Am Can	29⅞	30⅛
Am Cyanamid	29⅛	29⅜
Am Elec Power	16⅝	16⅞
Am Home	29⅝	29⅝
Am Motors	4	4⅛
Am Nat Res	46½	46⅞
Am Standard	32⅝	32⅞
Am Telephone	50½	49⅞
AMP Inc	71½	71⅝
Armco Steel	34⅞	34⅝
Asarco	36⅝	38⅝
Ashland Oil	30	31⅛
Atlntic Richfield	59⅝	59¼
Avco	27	27
Avon Products	33⅛	34⅛
Bankers Tst NY	62	63½
Bank of America	27⅝	27⅝
Bank of NY	35	34⅝
Beatrice Foods	18	19⅛
Bendix	54⅛	54⅝
Bethlehem Steel	23	23
Boeing	40⅝	40⅝
Boise Cascade	33⅝	33⅜
Borden	25⅝	25⅝
Borg Warner	41⅛	41⅛
Bristol Myers	49⅝	47⅝
BP	38⅝	37⅞
Burlington Ind	18⅝	19
Burlington Nthn	64½	64⅝
Burroughs	48⅛	49⅝
Campbell Soup	31⅛	31⅛
Canadian Pacific	33⅞	34
Caterpillar	59½	59½
Celanese	61⅝	61⅝
Central Soya	15⅛	15⅛
Chase Manhat	44⅝	43⅝
Chem Bank NY	46	46⅞
Chesapeake Ohio	41⅛	41⅛
Chrysler	5⅞	5½
Citicorp	22	21⅝
Cities Service	47⅝	49⅝
Clark Equip	35⅝	35½
Coca Cola	32⅝	33⅛
Colgate	14⅝	14½
CBS	49⅝	49⅝
Columbia Gas	39⅝	39⅝
Combustion Eng	42	42⅞
Comwlth Edison	18⅝	18⅝
Conoco	60⅝	60⅝
Cons Edison	24⅛	24⅛
Cons Foods	24⅛	24⅛
Cons Power	16⅝	16⅝
Continental Grp	37⅞	32⅞
Control Data	64	65⅛
Corning Glass	59⅝	60½
CPC Intnl	54½	60⅛
Crane	42	42
Crocker Int	38⅝	36½
Crown Zeller	46⅝	47⅝
Dart & Kraft	43	42⅞
Deere	41⅛	42
Delta Air	64	65½
Detroit Edison	11⅛	11⅛
Disney	49½	49½
Dow Chemical	33⅛	33⅝
Dresser Ind	46⅛	45½
Duke Power	17⅛	17⅝
Du Pont	40⅝	41⅛
Eastern Air	7⅞	7⅞
Eastman Kodak	70⅝	69½
Eaton Corp	27½	27⅝
El Paso Nat Gas	23⅝	23
Equitable Life	11⅛	11⅛
Esmark	49	49
Evans P. D.	20⅛	20⅛
Exxon Corp	76⅝	79⅝
Fed Dept Stores	31½	31⅛
Firestone	9½	10⅛
Fst Chicago	15½	15⅝
Fst Nat Boston	24⅛	24⅝
Fst Penn Corp	4⅛	4½
Ford	19½	19
GAF Corp	12⅞	13⅛
Gen Dynamics	33½	35⅛
Gen Electric	62	60⅝
Gen Foods	31	30½
Gen Mills	29½	29⅝
Gen Motors	44⅝	45⅝
Gen Pub Util NY	4⅛	4⅛
Gen Tel Elec	29⅝	29⅛
Gen Tire	21	21⅛
Genesco	5⅛	5⅞
Georgia Pacific	26⅝	26⅝
Getty Oil	85⅛	86⅛
Gillette	28	27½
Goodrich	22½	22⅞
Goodyear	17½	17⅛
Gould Inc	20½	20½
Grace	52⅞	53⅝
Gt Atltc & Pacific	4½	4½
Greyhound	14⅞	14⅛
Grumman Corp	24	25⅛
Gulf Oil	40⅝	40½
Gulf & West	15⅛	15⅛
Heinz H. J.	47⅞	47
Hercules	20⅛	20⅛
Honeywell	102	103
IC Inds	37	37
Ingersoll	69½	70⅛
Inland Steel	28⅛	30½
IBM	65⅛	65
Int Harvester	22½	22⅛
INCO	19	19⅛
Int Paper	42⅛	42⅞
Int Tel Tel	29	29⅛
Irving Bank	48⅛	47⅞
Jewel Co	36⅛	36⅛
Jim Walter	28⅝	29⅛
Johns-Manville	23⅞	23⅞
Johnson & Johns	96½	95
Kaiser Alumin	22⅛	22⅛
Kennecott	28½	27⅝
Kerr McGee	73⅛	69⅛
Kimberly Clark	57⅝	57⅝
K Mart	17½	17⅜
Kroger	20⅛	20⅛
L.T.V. Corp	18⅝	18⅝
Litton	74½	74⅛
Lockheed	30	31⅛
Lucky Stores	13⅞	13⅞
Manuf Hanover	31	31
Mapco	42⅝	42½
Marathon Oil	70	77
Marine Midland	16	16⅛
Martin Marietta	65½	67⅛
McDonnell	41⅛	42½
Mead	25⅝	25⅝
Merck	83½	83
Minnesota Mng	58⅛	58⅛
Mobil Oil	77⅞	77⅞
Monsanto	67⅞	70
Morgan J. P.	50⅛	50
Motorola	66⅛	66⅛
NCR Corp	62½	63⅛
NL Industries	68½	68⅛
Nabisco	27⅝	29⅛
Nat Distillers	26½	27⅛
Nat Steel	24⅞	23⅞
Norfolk West	41⅛	42⅛
NW Bancorp	29	29⅛
Norton Simon	14½	14½
Occidental Pet	31	32⅞
Ogden	33⅞	33⅝
Olin Corp	21⅛	20⅛
Owens-Illinois	24⅛	25⅛
Pacific Gas Elec	20½	20⅛
Pan Am	4⅛	4⅛
Penney J. C.	25½	25⅞
Pennzoil	41½	42⅛
Pepsico	29½	29⅛
Pfizer	51⅛	49⅛
Phelps Dodge	33⅞	34⅞
Philip Morris	43⅞	43⅞
Phillips Petrol	53⅛	53
Polaroid	23½	24½
PPG Ind	41⅞	42
Proctor Gamble	67½	68⅛
Pub Ser El & Gas	18⅝	18⅝
Rapid American	26⅛	25
Raytheon	95½	96⅛
RCA Corp	28⅛	28⅝
Republic Steel	22½	22⅞
Reynolds Ind	46½	46⅛
Reynolds Metal	35½	35½
Rockwell Int	38⅝	37⅛
Royal Dutch	93⅞	94⅛
Safeways	30⅛	30⅛
St Regis Paper	32⅞	32½
Santa Fe Ind	93½	94⅛
SCM	23⅝	24⅛
Schlumberger	113⅝	110⅛
Scott Paper	24⅛	24½
Seagram	56⅝	57⅞
Sears Roebuck	15⅛	15
Shell Oil	49½	50½
Shell Trans	41⅞	41⅞
Signal Co	24½	25
Singer	12	12½
Sony	15⅛	16
Sth Cal Edison	24½	24⅛
Southern Pacific	38	38⅛
Southern Rly	73½	73½
Sperry Corp	58⅛	57⅛
Std Brands	26⅝	27
Std Oil Califnia	93⅝	95⅞
Std Oil Indiana	71⅛	72
Std Oil Ohio	64⅛	65⅛
Sterling Drug	21⅛	21½
Stevens J. P.	14⅛	14⅛
Sunbeam Corp	17	16⅞
Sun Comp	43½	44
Teledyne	199⅛	194⅛
Tenneco	46⅛	45⅛
Texaco	42⅝	44
Texas East Corp	72	72⅛
Texas Inst	112	112
Texas Utilities	17½	17½
Textron	30⅛	30⅛
TWA	20⅛	20⅛
Travelers Corp	39⅝	39½
TRW Inc	54⅛	55⅛
UAL Inc	19⅛	19
Union Carbide	53½	53⅛
Union Oil Calif	39⅛	40
Un Pacific Corp	69⅛	71½
Uniroyal	5⅛	5½
United Brands	15⅛	15⅝
US Industries	8⅛	8⅛
US Steel	23⅞	24
Utd Technol	55	55½
Wachovia	29	29⅛
Warner Lambert	22⅛	22
Wells Fargo	29⅛	29½
West'n Bancorp	33⅞	33⅝
Westinghse Elec	27½	27⅞
Weyerhauser	34	33⅝
Whirlpool	19⅛	19
White Motor	2⅞	2⅞
Woolworth	24⅛	24⅝
Xerox Corp	56	56½
Zenith	17⅞	17½

Canadian Prices

	Jan 26	Jan 23
Abitibi	22½	23
Alcan Alumin	37⅛	38
Algoma Steel	40	39½
Bell Telephone	19⅛	19⅛
Cominco	69	69⅛
Cons Bathurst	22⅛	23½
Gulf Oil	23⅛	21
Hawker Sid Can	22½	23⅞
Hudson Bay Mng	33⅛	33⅞
Hudson Bay Oil	73½	73½
Imasco	33	32½
Imperial Oil	35⅛	35⅛
Int Pipe	15½	15½
Mass-Fergsn	5½	5½
Royal Trust	20⅛	20⅛
Seagram	67⅛	68⅛
Steel Co	35⅞	35
Thomson N 'A'	21⅛	21½
Walker Hiram	29⅛	28⅝
WCT	15	15⅛

* Ex div. a Asked. e Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

Foreign exchange.—Sterling, spot 2.4225 (2.4125); three months, 2.4300 (2.3305); Canadian dollar 1.1897 (1.1903).

The Dow Jones spot commodity index was 422.55 (424.29). The futures index was 443.87 (444.16).

The Dow Jones averages.—Industrials 938.91 (940.19); transportation 389.19 (391.61); utilities 111.47 (111.76); 65 stocks, 364.15 (365.27).

New York Stock Exchange index 74.43 (74.72); industrials, 87.05 (87.45); transportation, 72.52 (73.29); utilities, 37.95 (37.89); financial, 68.08 (68.26).

US commodities

GOLD fell $28. NY spot price for London delivery closed at $5[illegible] an ounce compared to Friday's $551.50; [illegible]. CHICAGO IMM: March, $521.00-530.00; April $537.60 asked; June, $550.50-551.00; July, $559.00 asked; Sept, $573.00 bid; Oct, $580.00 asked; Dec, $594.00 bid; Jan, $60[illegible] asked; March, $615.00 asked. NY COMEX.—Jan, $521.00-522.00; Feb, $527.50; March, $539.50; April, $54[illegible]; June, $558.20; Aug, $577.20; Oct, $58[illegible]; Dec, $603.20; Feb, $618.[illegible]; April, $6[illegible]; June, $648.20; Aug, $665.20; Oct, $678.50.

SPOT SILVER dropped $1.00 to $15.33 an ounce on heavy liquidation from speculators. Comex silver futures were offered down the 50-cent limit, with pace-setting March delivery collapsing to $14.07 an ounce. Jan, 1,330.00-1,335.00c; Feb, 1,388.50c; March 1,407.00c; May, 1,451.00c; July, 1,494.00c; Sept, 1,536.50c; Dec, 1,598.50c; Jan, 1,619.50c; March, 1,661.50c; May, 1,703.50c; July, 1,745.50c; Sept, 1,787.50c.

COPPER prices finished near highs with nearbys down 0.50 to 0.25 cent and inactive deferred delivery contracts up as much as 0.05 cent. Jan, 81.95c; Feb, 82.35c; March, 83.60-83.70c; May, 86.45-86.60c; July, 88.50-88.60c; Sept, 90.40c; Dec, 93.60c; Jan, 94.70c; March, 96.60c; May, 98.25c; July, 99.85c; Sept, 101.45c.

SUGAR futures closed at or near highs. July and September posted limit gains of 1.00 cent. Nearby March settled 0.39 cent down at 29.33 cents, but just below its high of 29.40 cents. March, 29.30-29.40c; May, 29.65-29.75c; July, 29.62c bid; Sept, 29.45c; Oct, 28.80c; Jan, 26.10c bid-26.30c asked; March, 26.20-26.30c; May, 26.00c bid-26.30c asked.

COFFEE futures closed at their lowest level in five weeks, falling 3.51 cents in spot March to 120.20 cents a lb and slumping 3.36 to 2.69 cents in other active contracts. March, 120.05-120.50; May, 123.50-124.25c; July, 125.30-125.50c; Sept, 127.10-127.50c; Dec, 127.50c; March, 126.90c; May, 127.00c.

COCOA futures were: March, 1,958-1,940; May, 2,007-1,991; July, $2,056-2,041; Sept, $2,105-2,091; Dec, $2,160-2,152; March, $2,217-2,210.

COTTON futures were: March, 87.60-87.75c; May, 88.80-88.95c; July, 89.66-89.70c; Oct, 86.66c; Dec, 83.66-83.70c; March, 84.65 bid-84.80c asked; May, 85.50-86.00c; July, 86.00-87.00c.

CHICAGO GRAINS. Wheat futures closed on the high side of a 15-cent range, up 7¾ to 2¾ cents a bushel in hectic dealings. Corn futures closed 1¾ to four cents a bushel higher, near the top of a 10¾ cent range in revived trade. 2000: CBT closing (1) 26 Jan 1981: WHEAT: March, 480¼-465½c; May, 489¾-475c; July, 479-465c; Sept, 492-478½c; Dec, 515¼-May, 374½-364¼c; July, 379¾-368½c; 501½: CORN: March, 3[illegible]c; Sept, 372½-363½c; Dec, 366¾-356c; March, 375½-365c. OATS. March, 217-asked; 210c: May, 217-210½c; July 212¾-206c; Sept, 211-205½c; Dec, 217-212c.

CHICAGO SOYABEANS. Futures closed 10 cents a bushel higher in nearbys to down 1½ cents in deferreds. Prices settled near the top of a 28-cent range. Oil finished up 0.15c a lb to down 0.17c. Meal ended $1.80 a ton higher to down $2. SOYABEANS. March, 757-7[illegible]c; May, 765-737c; July, 78[illegible]-762c; Aug, 796-771c; Sept, 800-774c; Nov, 815-792c; Jan, 835-815c; March, 855-832c. SOYABEAN OIL. March, 23.20-23.25c; May, 24.10-24.05c; July, 24.90-24.95c; Aug, 25.10c; Sept, 25.40c; Oct, 25.70c; Dec, 26.30-26.20c; Jan, 26.30 bid-26.35c asked; March, 26.50 bid-26.60c asked. SOYABEAN MEAL. March, $213.50-214.50; May, $224.00-225.00; July, $229.50-230.00; Aug, $232.00-232.30; Sept, $234.50; Oct, $235.00; Dec, $235.00-235.50; Jan, $236.00 bid-238.00.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Authorized Unit Trusts

[illegible]

Insurance Bonds and Funds

[illegible]

Offshore and International Funds

[illegible]

FINANCIAL

Stock m

B

Stock Exchange Prices

Strong start to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 26. Dealings End, Feb 6. § Contango Day, Feb 9. Settlement Day, Feb 16

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS

MEDIUMS

LONGS

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A—B

C—E

F—H

I—L

M—N

O—S

T—Z

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

RUBBER

TEA

High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
248	198	Assam Frontier	200	..	14.3	7.1	..
495	356	Camellia Inv	420	..	5.7	1.4	..
378	275	McLeod Russel	290	..	21.4	7.4	..
332	263	Moran	280	..	11.4	4.1	..
158	108	Surmah Valley	108	..	3.2	3.0	..
202	132¾	Warren Plant	196	−1	14.3b	7.3	..

MISCELLANEOUS

High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
48	25	Calcutta Elec	28	..	7.0	25.0	..
34½	28½	Essex Wtr 3.5%	£34½	..	500	14.5	..
27½	19	Gt Nthn Tele	£22	..	153	7.0	8.1
353	197	Imp Cont Gas	238	+10	10.1	4.2	11.2
185	93	Milford Docks	95	..	9.8	10.3	..
136	88	Nesco Inv	123	..	10.0	8.1	..
34	28½	Sunderlnd Wtr	£34	..	536	15.8	..

• Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Allied London Prop 8½% Cnv 1999 (‡)	£102
Bell A. 9½% Conv 1999-2001	£95¼
Chester Water 9% Red Pref 1985 (+)	£107½
Damson Oil Com Stk	15½
Dunbar Group £1 Ord (303)	440−10
East Anglian Water 9% Red Pref 1985 (+)	£107½
East Worcester Water 9% Red Pref 1985 (+)	£107½
Essex Water 8½% Red Pref 1985 (+b)	£105½
Exchequer 12% 'A' 1998 (+)	£90½−½
Exchequer 12½% 'B' 1999 (+h)	£10¼
Independent Inv 25p Ord (107‡)	12
Lon Merchant Secs 7½% Cnv Ln 2000-05	£41¼
New Tokyo Inv Trust 50p Ord	215+1
Phoenix Mining 25p Ord (25)	32+1
Trdy 11½% 1989 'A' (+g)	£37¼−½
Treasury 11¾% 2003-2007 'A' (†)	£37½−½

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renun	
Johnson Matthey	Mar 13	2 prem−3

Issue price in parentheses. • Ex dividend. + Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid. a £60 paid. b £10 paid. f Fully paid. g £40 paid. h £20 paid.

Law Report January 26 1981

Delay in arbitration no reason for court to grant injunction

Bremer Vulkan Schiffbau und Maschinenfabrik v South India Shipping Corporation

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Russell of Killowen and Lord Scarman

[Speeches delivered January 22]

Where parties to a contract have agreed to refer any disputes which may arise under the contract to arbitration, the agreement is consensual and voluntary; and the High Court may not grant an injunction to restrain claimants from proceeding with the arbitration of their claims on the ground that they have been so dilatory in their conduct that there is a risk that a fair arbitration will no longer be possible.

The House of Lords, Lord Fraser and Lord Scarman dissenting, so held in allowing an appeal by the shipowners, South India Shipping Corporation, incorporated in India, from the Court of Appeal (the Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Roskill and Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce) (The Times, November 22, 1979, sub nom [illegible]; [1980] 2 WLR 905) affirming Mr Justice Donaldson ([1979] 3 WLR 471) and holding in favour of Bremer Vulkan Schiffbau und Maschinenfabrik, shipbuilders incorporated in Germany, that the court had power to grant an injunction restraining South India as claimants in arbitration proceedings from pursuing their claims because they had been guilty of inordinate and inexcusable delay in prosecuting the arbitration. The Court of Appeal, however, had disagreed with the judge's ruling that an arbitrator has power to dismiss a claim for want of prosecution under the pre-1979 law applicable. The House dismissed the shipbuilders' cross-appeal on that point.

The Arbitration Act, 1979, now enables an arbitrator to obtain such a power from the High Court, in the event of non-compliance with an order made by him.

Mr Anthony Evans, QC, and Mr Giles Caldin for South India; Mr Kenneth Rokison, QC, and Mr David Grace for Bremer Vulkan.

LORD DIPLOCK said that under a contract made in 1964, Bremer Vulkan was to build five bulk carriers for South India. The contract was to be governed by German law. The only connexion with England was that the contract contained an arbitration clause providing that any "dispute or difference shall be referred to arbitration in London within the meaning of the English Arbitration Act, 1950, and the rules, regulations, etc., of the said Act shall solely apply."

The 12-month guarantee period after delivery of the last vessel expired on December 3, 1967. There were complaints of alleged defects in each vessel and efforts to reach a settlement having failed, recourse was made to arbitration in April, 1971. Sir Gordon Willmer was appointed sole arbitrator in January, 1972. His notice of appointment stated that a defence on which Bremer Vulkan intended to rely—that under German law the bulk of the claims were time-barred—should be determined in the arbitration.

In April, 1972, the parties agreed that South India should deliver "a full statement of claim" so that Bremer Vulkan could plead the time-bar defence to specific claims. Later, claims for further defects were added, so that the points of claim, with schedules, were not delivered until April, 1976. No application for directions had been made by either party to the arbitrator. The notice of his appointment was all that he received.

In April, 1977, Bremer Vulkan started proceedings by writ in the High Court claiming in the alternative (1) an injunction restraining South India from proceeding with the arbitration or (2) a declaration that the arbitrator had power to dismiss South India's claim for want of prosecution. In 1979 Mr Justice Donaldson granted the injunction sought; the Court of Appeal dismissed South India's appeal.

The disputes had been dealt with in a most dilatory way at three stages. The House was concerned only with the delay from January, 1972, to April, 1977, and in particular the delay between the nomination of the arbitrator and the delivery of the full points of claim in April, 1976.

That was because the basis on which the action was argued in the courts below was that the High Court had the same discretionary power to enjoin a dilatory claimant from proceeding with an English arbitration at the behest of a respondent who had passively endured the delay as it had to dismiss for want of prosecution an action brought by a dilatory plaintiff in the High Court. The courts below held that to justify the court in granting an injunction in cases where there had been no application to the arbitrator for directions, the principles first stated by the Court of Appeal in *Allen v Sir Alfred McAlpine & Sons Ltd* ([1968] 2 QB 229) and approved by the House in *Birkett v James* ([1978] AC 297), applicable to the exercise of the court's discretion to dismiss a plaintiff's action in the High Court for want of prosecution, would apply mutatis mutandis to the exercise of the court's discretion to enjoin a claimant from proceeding further with an arbitration.

The judge and the Court of Appeal were also at one in holding that South India's delay as claimant in proceeding with the arbitration between the appointment of the arbitrator and the delivery of the detailed points of claim was so inordinate and inexcusable and had given rise to so substantial a risk that a fair trial of the issues could not be had, that if the arbitration had been an action it ought to have been dismissed for want of prosecution; and on that ground the injunction was granted and upheld.

Was that analogy sound in law? His Lordship thought that it was not; and that nothing that had happened had given the judge jurisdiction to grant the injunction.

For Bremer Vulkan much reliance had been placed on the similarity of this kind of arbitration and an ordinary action in the Commercial Court; and it was suggested that by agreeing to an English arbitration clause the parties to the contract did no more than make a choice between one trier of fact, the arbitrator, and another trier of fact, the commercial judge, by whom, in the absence of such a clause, the case would be decided. There was no reason, they submitted, why the consequences of delay should not be the same in both cases; what was good for English High Court actions was good for English arbitrations.

That argument broke down on the facts. The parties had, by adopting the English arbitration clause, substituted a remedy by English arbitration, not for a remedy by action in the English courts but for a remedy by action in a German or some other foreign court.

The argument also failed on a broader ground. There was a whole variety of procedures used in arbitrations for the resolution of disputes, most of which did not reflect at all closely the pattern of procedure in a High Court action. If the analogy were sound in law, it must apply to all arbitrations under an English arbitration clause and not merely to those in which the actual dispute referred to arbitration was of a kind where it was likely that the proceedings would follow much the same pattern as they would in a High Court action.

The supervisory jurisdiction that the High Court exercised over the way inferior courts and tribunals conducted their proceedings was not inherent in its character as a court of justice; it was statutory. In *R v National Joint Council for the Craft of Dental Technicians* ([1953] 1 QB 704, 708) the Divisional Court held that such a general supervisory jurisdiction extended only to "bodies on whom Parliament has conferred statutory powers and duties which, when exercised, may lead to the detriment of subjects who may have to submit to their jurisdiction". Those bodies would include arbitrators appointed to conduct a statutory arbitration to whose jurisdiction parties to a particular kind of dispute were compelled to refer it for determination; but they did not include arbitrators appointed pursuant to private arbitration agreement. In relation to private arbitrations the High Court's supervisory jurisdiction was confined to exercising the powers conferred on it by the Arbitration Acts 1950 and 1979 (though the latter Act did not apply to the present arbitration.

The reason for the distinction was that the jurisdiction of an inferior court or statutory tribunal or arbitrator over the person who wished to resist the claim was compulsory, whereas the jurisdiction of an arbitrator over both parties to a private arbitration agreement was consensual only. His Lordship rejected the notion that the High Court's general supervisory power was more extensive than those conferred on it by the Arbitration Acts.

On the general jurisdiction of the High Court to grant injunctions as an alternative source of its power to control the conduct in an arbitration of the parties to it or the arbitrator, it was necessary, in light of *The Siskina* ([1979] AC 210), to look for some legal or equitable right of Bremer Vulkan to be enforced or protected; and the only sources of that right were the arbitration clause—included as a self-contained collateral contract in the shipbuilding agreement of 1964—and the appointment in January, 1972, of the arbitrator.

There was no previous reported case in which the court had granted an injunction to restrain a party from proceeding with an arbitration on the ground that he had committed a repudiatory breach of the arbitration agreement in the course of those proceedings before they had been terminated by the issue of an award.

The shipbuilding agreement had ceased to be executory; the time for performance of the parties' primary obligations under it was past. The arbitration clause, on the other hand, would remain executory so long as any disputes were outstanding on the parties' secondary obligations under the agreement. That clause was an agreement on what each party would do if and when there occurred an event of a particular kind. That event was one which either party could initiate by asserting against the other a claim under the shipbuilding contract not settled by agreement, in which case each was obliged to join with the other in referring the claim to arbitration and to abide by the arbitrator's award. The primary obligations of both parties which arose when the event occurred were contractual, whether express, or implied by statute, or included by necessary implication in the arbitration clause. If breach of any of them were what in an ordinary synallagmatic contract would be a repudiatory breach, his Lordship saw no ground in principle why the party not in breach should not be entitled to elect to put an end to all primary obligations to proceed with the reference then remaining unperformed and, in appropriate cases, to obtain an injunction to restrain the party in default from continuing with the reference to arbitration of that particular dispute.

It was that principle which some members of the courts below had purported to invoke. They held that the arbitration agreement was subject to an implied term of which South India was in repudiatory breach—namely, that the claimant in an arbitration who was guilty of such delay in proceeding with the arbitration as would justify the High Court in dismissing the proceedings for want of prosecution if the arbitration were an action, committed a repudiatory breach of the contract to refer the disputes to arbitration. It had also been assumed that an obligation to bring the arbitration to a conclusion with reasonable dispatch was incumbent on the claimant only, except where the next step in the procedure to be taken by either party was one which no one but the respondent was capable of taking. Even though there were available to the respondent effective means of requiring the claimant to put an end to any delay detrimental to the respondent and sanctions for the claimant's non-compliance, the assumption was that the respondent was entitled to remain entirely passive and wait until the detriment was so great as to amount to a repudiatory breach of the agreement to refer.

That notable departure from the maxim *vigilantibus non dormientibus jura subveniunt* was introduced into the implied term as a consequence of the *McAlpine* decision which the judge and Lord Justice Roskill had treated as applicable by analogy to arbitrations; but the differences, both conceptual and procedural, between actions and private arbitrations made any such analogy fallacious.

One fundamental difference between action at law and arbitration, was that the defendant's submission to the High Court's jurisdiction where the plaintiff chose to bring an action to determine a dispute was compulsory. Plaintiff and defendant in an action assumed no contractual obligations to one another as to what each must do in the course of the proceedings: their respective obligations as to procedure were imposed on them by the rules and practice of the court.

In contrast, the submission of a dispute to arbitration under a private arbitration agreement was purely voluntary by both claimant and respondent. Where the arbitration agreement formed part of a wider contract and provided for the reference to arbitration of all future disputes arising under the contract, neither party knew, when the agreement was entered into, whether he would be claimant or respondent in disputes to which the arbitration agreement would apply. If it created any contractual obligation to proceed with reasonable dispatch in all future arbitrations held pursuant to the clause, the obligation was mutual; it obliged each party to cooperate with the other in taking appropriate steps to keep the procedure moving, whether he happened to be the claimant or the respondent in the particular dispute.

Another fundamental difference where, as here, the arbitration agreement did not contain specific procedural rules, was that in an action the successive steps and the timetable for taking them were prescribed by the rules and practice of the court; and in civil litigation the English court took no action of its own motion. In an arbitration, however, what steps were to be taken by each party in a particular arbitration and the time-table which each must observe were matters to be determined by the arbitrator, who was entitled to act not only on the application of a party but also on his own initiative; but he was not under any duty to do the latter, for in the absence of any application he was justified in assuming that both parties were satisfied with the way the proceedings leading up to his award were progressing.

Up to the 1960s the High Court had applied the *vigilantes* maxim to applications by defendants to dismiss an action for want of prosecution. When the Court of Appeal, in *McAlpine*, abandoned the maxim, the change of practice was made for the protection of plaintiffs who had the misfortune to be represented by negligent solicitors, rather than in the interest of defendants who already had adequate powers under the rules and practice of the court to compel the plaintiff to proceed (through his solicitors) with reasonable dispatch. Those rules did not apply to private arbitrations, and his Lordship saw no justification for extending to private arbitrations a similar exception to the *vigilantes* principle.

What were the mutual obligations of the parties in a private arbitration? By appointing a sole arbitrator pursuant to an agreement which did not specify any particular procedural rules, the parties made the arbitrator the master of the procedure. He had a complete discretion to determine how the arbitration was to be conducted from the time of his appointment to the time of his award, so long as the procedure did not offend the rules of natural justice. The contractual obligation which the parties assumed to one another in relation to the procedure to be followed, unless a contrary intention was expressed in the agreement, was stated in section 12(1) of the 1950 Act.

No doubt in some arbitrations both claimant and respondent might carry out voluntarily some or all of the preliminary steps needed to prepare the matter for hearing by the arbitrator without seeking and obtaining any prior direction from him; but if what was done voluntarily by way of preparation was done so tardily that it threatened to delay the hearing to a date when there would be a substantial risk that justice could not be done, it was a necessary implication from their having agreed that the arbitrator should resolve their dispute that both parties were under a mutual obligation to one another to join in applying to the arbitrator for appropriate directions to put an end to the delay. Even if an application to the arbitrator for directions in such circumstances were a matter of right only and not, as his Lordship thought, a mutual obligation, it provided a remedy to the party who thought that the proceedings were not progressing fast enough voluntarily, which rendered unnecessary the implication in the arbitration agreement of any such term as had been suggested below.

Mr Justice Donaldson was of opinion that an arbitrator had power, before the Arbitration Act, 1979, to dismiss a claim for want of prosecution without having given any previous directions as to steps to be taken by the claimant and without the need to make an award in favour of the respondent. The Court of Appeal did not agree with him; nor did his Lordship in so far as the judge was of opinion that an arbitrator could dismiss a claim for want of prosecution instead of carrying out the procedure leading to an award in favour of the respondent that had been suggested by Mr Justice Bridge in *Crawford v Prowting* ([1973] 1 QB 1).

In the past arbitrators had often exercised the power to make an award ex parte against a respondent who failed to appear at the time and place fixed for the hearing; and to debar him from raising a defence of which, in breach of the arbitrator's directions, he had failed to give the claimant adequate and timely notice. His Lordship saw no reason why an arbitrator should not have the like power in respect of a claimant.

Bremer Vulkan, however, had been content to allow the claimants, South India, to carry out voluntarily the preparation of detailed points of claim. They never made an application to the arbitrator for directions, and none were made by him. For failure to apply for such directions before so much time had elapsed that there was a risk that a fair trial of the dispute would not be possible both claimant and respondent were in breach of their contractual obligations to one another; and neither could rely on the other's breach as giving him a right to treat the primary obligations of each to continue with the reference as brought to an end. Respondents in private arbitrations were not entitled to let sleeping dogs lie and then complain that they did not bark. His Lordship would allow South India's appeal.

Lord Edmund-Davies delivered a concurring speech and Lord Russell agreed with Lord Diplock's speech.

LORD FRASER, dissenting, agreed with the Court of Appeal that arbitrators did not have power to dismiss a claim for want of prosecution. It could make no difference whether an arbitrator dismissed a claim for want of prosecution in so many words or reached the same result indirectly, by making a peremptory order for the plaintiff to lodge his claim by a certain day, and then, if the claimant failed to obey the order refusing to hear him. His Lordship considered that an arbitrator did not have such a power. If an arbitrator did not have power to dismiss for want of prosecution, then, unless the court had power to restrain the arbitration by injunction, there was no means of preventing its proceeding even if the delay had been such as to preclude the possibility of a fair trial.

If that were indeed the position it would reveal a lamentable gap in English jurisprudence. But his Lordship did not think that such a gap existed. It was well established that the court had jurisdiction to grant injunctions against proceeding with arbitrations in two types of case: where the arbitrator had been guilty of misconduct or had become unqualified (*Beddow v Beddow* (1878) 9 Ch D 89); and where the validity or application of the contract of arbitration was "impeached" by one party. The real question was whether those two types of case were unique in being the only types in which an injunction could be pronounced, or, as his Lordship thought, were examples of the application of a more general principle.

In the *North London Railway Co v Great Northern Railway Co* ((1883) 11 QBD 30) Lord Justice Cotton regarded the injunction granted against an arbitration proceeding in *Beddow* as an ordinary exercise of the court's power and duty to protect legal rights and the right he must have had in mind was the right to a fair trial, which included the right not to be harassed by an arbitration before a tribunal that was not impartial. The *North London Railway* case had been recently referred to with approval in *The Siskina*, by Lord Diplock who said that "the High Court has no power to grant an interlocutory injunction except in protection or assertion of some legal or equitable right which it has jurisdiction to enforce by final judgment". His Lordship fully accepted that principle as applying in the present case.

In his Lordship's opinion if the arbitration were now allowed to proceed, it would infringe a legal or equitable right of Bremer Vulkan. More accurately, it would infringe their right not to be harassed by arbitration proceedings which could not lead to a fair trial. The source of that right might be contractual, or it might be imposed by law as a rule of natural justice. His Lordship would rest his opinion in favour of Bremer Vulkan on the principle that they had an equitable right not to be harassed by arbitration proceedings which could not result in a fair trial.

Lord Scarman delivered a speech for dismissing the appeal.

Solicitors: Richards Butler & Co; Norton Rose, Botterell & Roche.

Patent judge retires

Members of the Senior and Junior Bar, patent agents, solicitors and officials gathered in the Lord Chancellor's Court to say farewell to Mr Justice Graham and to wish him well on his retirement after more than 50 years in practice at the Bar and on the Bench.

Mr G. D. Everington, QC, claimed the right, as a senior member of the Patent Bar, to express gratitude for his Lordship's fine contribution to the law, and for his practical, down-to-earth approach to intellectual property cases, and his stimulating and refreshing judgments which had brought a much needed air of reality into a branch of the law which, before Mr Justice Lloyd-Jacob's appointment as the first patent judge had shown a tendency to become far too metaphysical. He thanked his Lordship for his unfailing help and support, and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Mr Bruce Spalding added his tribute on behalf of the Junior Bar.

Mr Leolin Price, QC, on behalf of the generality of the Chancery Bar, said what a privilege it had always been to appear before his Lordship. The law had been enhanced by his illuminating and erudite judgments.

Mr N. Waddleton, president of the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents conveyed the thanks and good wishes of over 400 patent agents. Mr. Simon Cooke, of Bristows, Cooke & Carpmael, Solicitors, although having some doubt about his right of audience, added the thanks and good wishes of his profession.

His Lordship thanked them all. He looked forward to his retirement with somewhat mixed feelings, he said, but hoped soon that he would be found sitting in the sun in an armchair, with a glass of wine in his hand and an electronically set and printed newspaper on his lap.

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PRIVATE HOUSE.—Bedsitting room & own kitchen, bathroom and telephone. £40 p.w. S.W.6. 01-373 3295.

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STEPNEY.—Male over 22, own small room. £43 p.c.m. excl. 790 0613.

SOUTH KEN.—Large double room, in spacious flat (1 other). £37 [illegible] in spacious flat (1 other). £150 p.c.m. excl. 373 1510.

W.1.—Professional person, large room in luxury flat. £37 p.w. inc. 01-486 3081.

MARBLE ARCH.—Prof man 25+, non-smoker, for warm house. £35 p.w. excl. 01-262 6308.

N.1.—Shared house, own room, C.H. £30 all in. 20-30 Grad/prof status. Phd preferred. 226 4532.

N.W.11.—Own room, share flat. £24 p.w. excl. 455 0644, eves.

S.W.3.—Male/female 25+, own room in large house. Initial period 6 mths. £35 p.w. inc. 01-352 6372, after 6 p.m.

RENTALS

EALING W5. Detached house with 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Large reception. Garage, garden. £175 p.w. Church Bros. 439 0581/7953.

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KNIGHTSBRIDGE. Penthouse with roof patio. 36ft recep. 3 beds. 2 baths. all machines, superb decor. Avail now for 6 months. £260 p.w. Buchanans, 589 7779/9936.

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RENTALS

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CHELSEA.—Light, spacious, house balcony flat, double bedroom, reception, lifts, porters. 01-6[illegible] 5825.

MARBLE ARCH/HYDE PARK.—Luxury 1/2/3/4/5 bed. flats & houses. Long/short lets. West Trend. 262 6204.

KINGSTON HOUSE, Knightsbridge, super flat, 2 beds., large recep., k. & b. £130 p.w. inc. C.H., C.H.W. Graham Marks 01-5[illegible] 4103.

WEST ONE.—Lux. flat, 2 beds., C.H., f/fitted, mod. amenities. £150 p.w. Global Property M. S. Ltd. 01-247 6101/1853.

S.E.4.—Girl 25+ o/r share house. £65 p.m. 691 2733.

(continued on page 24)

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appears every day and featured on Wednesdays and Thursdays for details ring 01-278 9161 or Manchester 061-834 1234

PERSONAL CHOICE

Angharad Rees as Lady Caroline in J. M. Barrie's comedy Dear Brutus (BBC 1, 9.25 pm)

● December 1980 saw the last edition of the 164-year-old Blackwood's Magazine, the longest-running literary magazine in the world. Tonight Radio 4 (7.30) pays homage to this old British institution with a history of the publication. Leslie Gardner traces its life from its founding, by William Blackwood, as a Tory mouthpiece condemning the Whigs whenever possible, through its maturing years as a serious literary magazine, giving opportunities for the great names of Victorian literature to establish their reputation. Authors of the calibre of Trollope, Conrad, Reade, etc all had stories published in the magazine and most of George Eliot's novels were serialised. Included in the programme are extracts from authors' letters to the editor about the publication of their work and also letters from readers with reaction to the Magazine's content. The programme is a fitting tribute to a much lamented publication.

● The second programme in the series Under Sail (BBC 2 6.35 pm) features the Pascual Flores, a 60-year-old Spanish trading schooner, which was rotting away in a deserted backwater of Ibiza when she was discovered, partly refurbished and given a leading role in The Onedin Line. She began life as a three-masted fruit skip, based in Southern Spain, but with the advent of refrigeration and the need for more speed she gradually became redundant. She is now being fully restored in Bristol by the Nova Charitable Trust which, along with the Youth Opportunities Scheme, is employing school leavers in the mammoth project to convert her to her former glory. When this is completed she will become a training vessel for local children. In the programme we see the hard work the young people are putting into the task and also follow the vessel back to Bristol from filming the Onedin Line on location in Falmouth.

● There is a star-studded cast, headed by Frank Finlay, in J.M. Barrie's comedy Dear Brutus (BBC 1 9.25 pm). The play concerns a widely different group of people who accept an invitation to spend Midsummer's Eve at the country house of the mysterious Lob. In the grounds of his estate is a magic wood into which the guests must enter to be given a chance to relive their lives, avoiding the mistakes they have made in the real one.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am For Schools, Colleges: News in French; 9.35 It's Maths; 9.57 Songs and stories for young children; 10.16 Look and Read; 10.38 Religious and Moral education; 11.00 Lookin at shoes; 11.17 Television Club; 11.38 Arthur C. Clarke; 12.05 pm Politics and Society; Closedown at 12.30.
12.45 News.
1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Guests today include squash rackets star Sue Cogswell and singer Grace Kennedy. In addition Dr David Delvin gives some advice on Family Matters. 1.45 Fingerbobs (r). 2.00 You and Me (r).
2.14 For Schools, Colleges: German conversation; 2.40 Japan; Closedown at 3.00.
3.20 Pobol y Cwm. Welsh serial. 3.55 Play School (shown earlier on BBC 2).
4.20 Undercover Elephant. Cartoon adventures of a super snooper (r). 4.25 Jackanory. Joanna David reads the second instalment of Laura Ingalls Wilder's By the Shores of Silver Lake. 4.40 Animal Magic with Johnny Morris and Terry Nutkins. Today we learn the difference between a stoat and a weasel and watch the complicated arrangements for transferring two dolphins from one side of the country to the other. 5.05 John Craven's Newsround. 5.10 Grange Hill. Part nine of the eighteen-episode serial based on a mixed secondary school.
5.40 News read by Jan Leeming. 5.55 Nationwide. Regional news followed by the weekly feature, Animal Matters. 6.45 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Four cartoons starring Tom and Jerry and Daffy Duck. 7.10 Taxi. American comedy series about the drivers and passengers of the Sunshine Cab Company of New York.
7.35 Six of the Best: Colditz. In this repeat of one of the series about life in the famous prisoner-of-war camp Wing Commander Marsh feigns insanity in an attempt to be repatriated.
8.30 Seconds Out. Comedy series about the life of a professional middleweight boxer starring Robert Lindsay.
9.00 News read by Kenneth Kendall.
9.25 Play: Dear Brutus by J. M. Barrie starring Frank Finlay. A comedy about a group of people who are invited to a country house on Midsummer's Eve to be given the chance to relive their lives without committing the mistakes they made in the real one (see Personal Choice).
10.45 Omnibus: When the Dancing had to Stop. The story of how ballet star Lynn Seymour fought to overcome the foot injury that forced her to retire. We follow her in the crucial six months leading to her resumption from the Royal Ballet. Her career is reviewed with filmed extracts of her roles and they are discussed by Dame Ninette de Valois, Rudolf Nureyev and Clement Crisp.
11.45 News headlines.

Regions

[illegible]

BBC 2

10.00 am Business World. Part three—The Selling Business (r). Closedown at 10.25.
11.00 Play School. Fluella Benjamin and Fred Harris are today's presenters and the story is Mr J. Lilly's Tigs and His Pockets. 11.25 **Speak For Yourself.** Advice on obtaining a refund on faulty goods. Closedown at 11.50.
2.30 pm Roads to Conflict. This third in a series of six programmes explaining the origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict. **3.00 Illusions of Reality*.** The third of six films about the cinema and public opinion in the 1930s (r). **3.30 Living City.** Part thirteen of a fifteen-part sociological series based on the city of Leicester (r). Closedown at 3.55.
5.40 Harold Lloyd*. This afternoon we see this most celebrated stunt when he climbs up the side of a skyscraper in the film Safety Last. There is also a clip from his film Hey There. **6.05 The Deceivers.** Jeremy Beadle rushes through the cinema and the swindlers in the fourth programme of his series on the most celebrated tricksters, cheats and swindlers.
6.35 Under Sail. The second in a new series on old sail ships still in use features the Spanish trading schooner, Pascual Flores: The Narrator is Tom Salmon. (See Personal Choice).
6.50 News with sub-titles for the hard-of-hearing.
6.55 Film: My Darling Clementine* (1946) starring Henry Fonda and Linda Darnell. The legendary John Ford-directed story of the Marshal of Tombstone, Wyatt Earp.
8.30 Russell Harty. His guest tonight is playwright and authoress Edna O'Brien.
9.00 Pot Black 81. Two Canadians compete in the fifth frame match this evening—World Snooker Champion Cliff Thorburn and semi-finalist Kirk Stevens.
9.25 Ireland: A Television History written and presented by Robert Kee. Terror is the title of this period which covers the years 1918 to 1921 when the Irish Republican Army, led by Michael Collins, battled with the police and the notorious Black and Tans.
10.20 Jake Thackray and Songs. The folk singer-songwriter with some more of his own compositions from The Royal Oak, Nailsea and his guest is Alex Glasgow.
10.50 Newsnight. Informed reports on the stories behind today's headlines. Programme ends at 11.40.

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: Simple Arithmetic; 9.47 A look at the different festivals that are celebrated; 10.04 Brass musical instruments; 10.26 A study of Dartmoor with Bill Grundy; 10.48 A-Level chemistry; 11.05 Maths for seven to nine-year-olds; 11.22 Practical science; 11.39 Preparing for the problems of young family life.
12.00 Jamie and the Magic Torch. Adventures of a young boy and his dog (r). 12.10 pm Pipkins. Puppets for young children. 12.30 The Sullivans. Drama serial about an Australian family during World War Two.
1.00 News read by Peter Sissons.
1.20 Thames News with Robin Houston.
1.30 Crown Court. Continuing the trial of Diana Graham who is accused of pushing her friend's husband down the stairs (r). 2.00 After Noon Plus introduced by Judith Chalmers. On the programme this afternoon are Christopher Price MP and David Barnard who will be looking at our legal system; Mary Berry demonstrating the correct way to cook exotic vegetables and the Praetorius Consort who will perform music of the Renaissance period. 2.45 The Mallens. More sordid goings-on in 19th Century Northumberland (r). 3.45 Unforgettable. Alan Freeman takes us back to the swinging 60s with guests Marty Wilde and Frank Ifield. 4.15 Dr Snuggles. Cartoon about a lovable old inventor. 4.23 Take a Chance. Comedy centred on a theatrical guest house grandly named the Rose Marie Hotel. 4.45 Ace. Live action and entertainment for pre-teenagers presented by Wayne Laryea and Brian Jacks. 5.15 Emmerdale Farm. Annie Sugden goes to hospital for an operation.
5.45 News. 6.00 Thames News.
6.25 Help! Former Help! co-ordinator Viv Taylor Gee with news of the National Child Care Campaign. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Looks Familiar. Denis Norden with guests Diana Dors, Bernard Cribbins and Lionel Jeffries reminisce about the stars, films and variety acts of the thirties and forties.
7.30 Ballyskillen Opera House starring Frank Carson. Comedy series about the management and performers of an Irish Music Hall.
8.00 Sapphire and Steel. Science fiction adventure serial starring Joanna Lumley and David McCallum. **8.30 George and Mildred.** Mrs Roper decides that her dog should have puppies and Mr Roper is intrigued to learn that there could be money in it for him. Starring Brian Murphy and Yootha Joyce (r).
9.00 Cover. Episode two of the new espionage serial starring Alan Howard.
10.00 News.
10.30 Midweek Sports Special: Including Football and Gymnastics. 11.30 Superstar Profile: Catherine Laporte. Coolen talks with Michael Caine at his Beverly Hills home.
12.25 am Close.

RADIO

Radio 4

6.00 am News.
6.10 Farming.
6.30 Today.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Tuesday Call.
10.00 News.
10.02 From Our Own Correspondent.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Story.
11.00 News.
11.05 Play: "A-levels and the Private Eye", by Terence O'Brien.
11.35 Wildlife.
12.00 News.
12.02 pm You and Yours.
12.30 Down Your Way.
1.00 News.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 The Good Soldier Sveijk.
4.00 Borderland (4): Poland.
4.15 Not Just Dots on a Washing Line. Interviews on music teacher Sylvia Forster.
4.45 Story: "No Fond Return of Love".†
5.00 PM.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.30 Never Too Late.†
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Medicine Now.
7.30 Blackwood's Magazine (1817-1980), a personal look (See Personal Choice).
8.55 Chapter House Choir. York.
9.05 In Touch.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
10.00 News.
10.30 Earthsearch (4).†
11.00 A Book at Bedtime: "The Worm Forgives the Plough" (2).
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News.
12.15-12.23 am Weather.

VHF
9.05 am Schools: Deutsch für die Oberstufe (2): Music Interlude; Vous de France (2): Music Interlude; News; Music Interlude; Playtime. 10.30-10.45 Listen with Mother. 11.00-12.00 Schools: Let's Move!; Music Interlude; Introducing Science.
2.00-3.00 pm Schools: History: Look; Secondary Science; Stories and Rhymes.
5.50-5.55 25 Years Ago.
11.00-11.30 Study on 4: Allez France! (13).

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Records: Vaughan Williams, Elgar.†
8.00 News.
8.05 Records: Mainerio, Corelli, Bellini, Donizetti, Respighi.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Week's Composer: Rimsky-Korsakov.†
10.00 Soprano, Clarinet and Piano: Alexander Abercrombie, Spohr, Marcus Seiber, Vaughan Williams, Bliss, Wilfred Josephs.†
10.55 Edinburgh String Quartet: Mendelssohn, Prokofiev.†
11.45 Choral Suites from Operas by Britten, Williamson.†
12.15 pm BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra 1: Beethoven, Chausson.†
1.00 News.
1.05 Six Continents.
1.25 BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, part 2: Duparc, Mozart.†
2.20 Melos Quartet. Stuttgart: Bartok's first string quartet.†
2.50 Talk. Liszt the Progressive, by Leslie Howard.†
3.40 Recital: Gordon Crosse, Justin Connolly, Peter Maxwell Davies.†
4.25 Jazz.†
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.†
7.00 A Mozart Pilgrimage (1): Travel diaries of Vincent and Mary Novello, 1829.
7.30 Opera: Cosi fan tutte live from Covent Garden. Act 1.†
9.00 Reading: The Eternal Husband, by Dostoevsky, part 3.
9.20 Cosi fan tutte, Act 2.†
11.00 News.
11.05-11.15 Record: Szymanowski, orchestrated Fitelberg.†

Radio 2

5.00 am News. 5.03 Bob Kilbey.† 7.32 Terry Wogan.† 10.03 Jimmy Young.† 12.03 pm David Hamilton.† 2.03 Ed Stewart.† 4.03 Much More Music.† 6.03 John Dunn.† 8.02 The Leading Ladies.† 9.30 Glamorous Nights.† 10.02 The Law Game. 10.30 Funny You Should Ask. 11.02 Brian Matthew.† 2.02 am-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.00 Andy Peebles. 12.30 pm Newsbeat. 12.45 Steve Wright. 2.32 Dave Lee Travis. 4.32 Peter Powell. 5.30 Newsbeat. 7.00 Talkabout. 8.00 Richard Skinner. 10.02-12.00 John Peel.†
VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2 5.00 am With Radio 2. 10.00 pm With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz, 463m) at the following times (GMT):
6.00 am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-four Hours. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Europa. 8.30 Baker's Half-dozen. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 The English Miniature. 10.00 Discovery. 10.30 John Peel. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 Letter from London. 11.25 Scotland This Week. 11.30 Sports International. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 pm Musical Memories. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-four Hours. 1.30 Network UK. 1.45 A Jolly Good Show. 2.30 Towards 2000. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Baker's Half-dozen. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Scotland This Week. 5.15 Just a Minute. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-four Hours. 9.15 The Pleasure's Yours. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Scotland This Week. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Classical Record Review. 11.30 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? 12.00 World News. 12.09 am News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 A Jolly Good Show. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Record on Religion. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Four Hands in Harmony. 2.30 Towards 2000. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Discovery. 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today.

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1089kHz or 285m/1053kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330m/909kHz or 433m 693kHz and 88-91 VHF. Radio 3 med wave 247m/1215kHz and 90-92.5 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92-95 VHF. Greater London area only: med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF. Capital 194m, 95.8 VHF. World Service: med wave 648kHz (463m). BBC Radio London 206m, 94.9 VHF.

REGIONAL TV

Granada
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Granada Reports. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15-5.45 Different Strokes. 6.00 Granada Reports. 6.25 This is Your Right. 6.30 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.30 Monte Carlo Show. 11.25 After All These Years. 11.35-12.35 am New Standard Drama Awards.

Anglia
As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Out of Town. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45 Looks Familiar. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 7.00-7.30 Cat's Whiskers. 10.30 British Matchplay Darts Championship. 11.00 Sound of Marian Montgomery. 11.15 New Standard Drama Award. 12.15 am Norfolk Parson visits America.

Tyne Tees
As Thames except: Starts 9.20 am Good Word. 9.25-9.30 News. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. Lookaround. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15-5.45 Different Strokes. 6.00 News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25 Northern Life. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.30 News. 10.32 Midweek Sports Special. 12.00-12.05 am Sentimental Journey.

Westward
As Thames except: 12.27 pm Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 12.30-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 6.00-6.35 Westward Diary. 7.00-7.30 Brooks. 10.31 News. 10.34 Sunday Sweet Sunday. 11.00 Sound of Marian Montgomery. 11.15 New Standard Drama Awards. 12.15 am-12.20 Faith for Life.

ATV
As Thames except: 12.30-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15-5.45 Different Strokes. 6.00 News. 6.05 Crossroads. 6.30 ATV Today. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.30 Left, Right and Centre. 11.10 News. 11.15-12.15 am New Standard Drama Awards.

Border
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15-5.45 Electric Theatre Show. 6.00-6.35 Lookaround. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30-11.33 News.

Scottish
As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15 Tales of Gruce. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.20 Job Spot. 6.30 What's Your Problem? 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30 Late Call. 11.35-12.30 am Kate Loves a Mystery.

Grampian
As Thames except: Starts 9.25 am-9.30 First Thing. 12.30 pm-1.00 Simply Sewing. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight. 7.00-7.30 Welcome to the Ceilidh. 11.30 Reflections. 11.35 Quincy. 12.30 am-12.35 News.

Ulster
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 3.45 Looks Familiar. 4.13-4.15 News. 5.15 Cartoon. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.30 Stanley Baxter Moving Picture Show. 11.30-11.40 Bedtime.

HTV
As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Play it Again. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15 Gus Cruise. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Report West. 6.30 Definition. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.28-10.30 News. 11.30-12.25 am End of Term Trip.
HTV CYMRU/WALES: As HTV West except 9.47 am-10.02 Wales and the Sea. 10.45-11.03 Believe it or Not. 12.00-12.05 pm Pull a Pin. 12.05-12.10 Calimero. 4.15-4.45 Gweasy Gwirion. 6.00-6.15 Y Dydd. 6.15-6.30 Report Wales. 10.30-11.00 Mae'r Gelyn Oddi Mewn. 11.00-11.30 World in Action. 11.30-12.30 am New Standard Drama Awards.

Yorkshire
As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Looks Familiar. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Calendar. 5.15-5.45 In Loving Memory. 6.00-6.35 Calendar. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30-12.00 Entertainers: Elsie Brooks.

Southern
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15 Betty Boop. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Day by Day. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30 SWAT. 12.25 am Weather followed by What Use Cathedrals?

Channel
As Thames except: 12.00 Closedown. 12.30 pm-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 6.00-6.35 Channel Report. 7.00-7.30 Brooks Tour. 10.28 News. 10.34 Sunday Sweet Sunday. 11.15-12.15 am New Standard Drama Awards.

Entertainments Guide

S Unsold seats at cut price to students just before performance.
CC Most credit cards accepted for telephone bookings or at the box office.
When telephoning, use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM S 836 3161 cc 240 5258
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tonight 7.30: The Merry Widow. Tomor & Sat 7.30: Romeo & Juliet. Thurs 7.30: Tosca. Fri 7.30: Cinderella. 104 balcony seats avail from 10 am on day of perf.

COVENT GARDEN 240 1066 S (Gardencharge cc 836 6903) 65 Amphiseats avail for all perfs. from 10.00 am the day of perf
THE ROYAL OPERA
Ton't & Sat at 7.30 Cosi fan tutte. Fri at 7.30 Un ballo in maschera (Paul Hudson replaces Forbes Robinson all perfs).
THE ROYAL BALLET
Tomor at 7.30 La Fille mal gardée. Thurs & Mon at 7.30 Troy Game, A Month in the Country (Thurs Park & Coleman replace Seymour & Wall. Mon Conley & Silver replace Seymour & Wall), Les Noces.

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE, EC1. Tel. 01-837 1672/1673/3856. Credit Cards 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. 01-278 0871
Until Feb. 21.
D'OYLY CARTE presents
GILBERT & SULLIVAN OPERAS
Eves. 7.30. Mats Sat and Feb 11 & 18 at 2.30. Tonight and Tomor Iolanthe. Thur until Feb 4 The Pirates of Penzance. Tkts £2.00 to £7.50

CONCERTS

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL (01-928 3191) Tomorrow 8 LONDON MOZART PLAYERS Mark Elder, Alfred Brendel. Handel: Concerto a due cori in F; Mozart: Piano Concerto in E flat K271; CPE Bach: Symphony No 1 in D. Beethoven: Symphony No 8.

THEATRES

ADELPHI S CC 01-836 7611 Evgs. at 7.30, Sats. 3.0 & 7.45 Mats. Thursdays at 3.0
TONY BRITTON CAROLINE VILLIERS PETER BAYLISS and ANNA NEAGLE in
MY FAIR LADY
"A MARVELLOUS SHOW"—Now! "SPECTACULAR"—D. Express. "STUNNING"—Time Out
Now Booking through to Oct. For Group Bookings telephone 01-836 7358 or 01-379 6061

ALBERY—OMEGA SHOW GUIDE
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST, EDUCATING RITA, TOMFOOLERY
DUET FOR ONE, PAL JOEY
CREDIT CARD SALES 379 6565 from 9 a.m. all major cards. No bkg fees. GROUP bkgs. 836 3962. STUDENT STANDBY ALL SHOWS.

ALBERY S 836 3878 cc bkgs 379 6565. Grp bkgs 836 3962 379 6061. Evgs 8. Thurs mat 3.00. Stalls from £2.00, Sat 5 & 8.15. "SIAN PHILLIPS 'A KNOCK-OUT'" S. Times S. Exp. DENIS LAWSON Most Promising New Actor DRAMA AWARD 1980.
PAL JOEY
"IS SOMETHING TO BE SEEN AT ALL COSTS" (F.T.). RODGERS & HART'S GREATEST HIT (D. Mail) GLITTERINGLY SLEAZY SHEER THEATRICAL RAZZLE DAZZLE Std.

ALDWYCH S 836 6404 cc 379 6233 ... Info 836 5332.
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY Ton't Tomor. Thu 7.30
JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK
by Sean O'Casey
Trevor Nunn's stunning revival (... Mail). Judi Dench: Actress of the Year in a Revival SWET. Best Actress Drama Critics with Peter ... PASSION PLAY (next ... Fri ... and Erdman's THE SUICIDE (next perf 5 Feb). For ... Postal booking 20025. Group sales ... 6061. RSC also at The Warehouse Piccadilly.

AMBASSADORS S cc 836 1171 Evgs 8. Tue 3. Sat 5.30 & 8.30. "One of the cleverest plays ever written" Daily Telegraph.
J. B. PRIESTLEY'S
Mystery Play
DANGEROUS CORNER
"A splendid & handsome revival" Sunday Express. "Priestley's most popular play" Observer & Times.

APOLLO. S cc 01-437 2663. Grp. Sales 379 6061. Eves 8. Wed & Sat. 5 & 8.
RODNEY BEWES FRANCIS MATTHEWS
in "An unusually truthful and intelligent comedy" The Observer.
MIDDLE AGE SPREAD
COMEDY OF THE YEAR WEST END THEATRE AWARDS 1979
LAST 2 WEEKS—ENDS 7 FEB.

CHURCHILL cc 460 6677 5838 Bromley Kent. From Wed 28 Jan 7.45. Sat 4.30 & 8. Thurs 2.30. Faith Brook, John Arnatt, Lacy Gutteridge, Tony Caunter, David Troughton in Edgar Wallace's thriller THE CASE OF THE FRIGHTENED LADY.

COMEDY THEATRE S cc 01-930 2578. Limited season. Mon-Sat. 8.15. Mats. Thur. 3.00. Sat. 4.00.
RALPH RICHARDSON
in the National Theatre prod. of
EARLY DAYS
by David Storey
RALPH RICHARDSON: "TRIUMPH" Gdn.
"UNFORGETTABLE" Int Hld Trib "NOT TO BE MISSED" Punch
Group sales 379 6061

COTTESLOE (N.T.'s small auditorium): Last 2 perfs. Ton't. Tomor 7.15 THE NATIVITY all tkts standing £3.50. Students standby £1.40.

CRITERION S 930 3216 cc 379 6565. Grp Bkgs 379 6061 or 836 3962. Eves 8. Fri/Sat 6 & 8.45.
Robin Ray, Jonathan Adams, Martin Connor, Tricia George in
A SATIRICAL REVUE
TOMFOOLERY
Words, music & lyrics of Tom Lehrer
"HILARIOUS, BARBED AND BUBBLY" Sunday Times "OUTRAGEOUS" Guardian

DUKE OF YORKS S 836 5122. Credit cards 379 6565. 836 9837. 836 3692. Group Bookings 836 3962. 379 6061. Evenings 8.0 Sats. 5.0 & 8.30 Stalls & Circle from £2.90.
FRANCES DE LA TOUR ACTRESS OF THE YEAR in a new play West End Awards 1980.
and DAVID DE KEYSER
Best Supporting Actor Drama Awards of the Year 1980 in
TOM KEMPINSKI'S
DUET FOR ONE
BEST NEW PLAY Drama Awards 1980.
"THE AMAZING NEW PLAY" D. Tel. "NO ONE INTERESTED IN THE THEATRE CAN AFFORD NOT TO SEE THIS PRODUCTION" F. Times.

CARRICK (S) cc 01-836 4601 Evgs. 8.0. Fri. & Sat. 5.30 & 8.30 Reduced price Mats. Fridays Group Bookings 01-379 6061. WILLIAM FRANKLYN in
DEATHTRAP
"THE BEST THRILLER" D. T.
LAST 2 WEEKS ENDS FEB 7

GLOBE S cc 01-437 1592. 439 6770. Evgs. 8.0. Sats. 6.00 & 8.45 Group Sales Box Office 01-379 6061.
"HINGE & BRACKET ARE TRIUMPHANTLY ENSCONCED AT THE GLOBE" E.S.
SEASON ENDS SATURDAY.
For 12 weeks only. BOOK NOW! ROWAN ATKINSON IN REVUE. Previews Feb. 17 & 18 at 8.0. opens Feb. 19 at 7.0. subs. 8.0. Sat. 6.0 & 8.45.

GREENWICH THEATRE. S cc 858 7755. Preview Tomor. 8.0. opens Thur 7.0. sub evgs 8.0. Mat Sats 2.30. PRESENT LAUGHTER by Noel Coward.

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE. 722 9301. Jean-Claude Grumberg's
THE WORKSHOP
"NEEDS TO BE SEEN. LEE MONTAGUE VOLCANICALLY COMIC. LYNN FARLEIGH SUPERBLY TRUTHFUL" Tms. Mon.-Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 4.30 & 8 p.m.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL, cc 01-930 9832. For 12 weeks only. Prevs. Ton't & tomor at 8.0. Opens Thur at 7.0. Sub. 8.0
MAGGIE SMITH IN
VIRGINIA
A new play by Edna O'Brien from the lives and writings of Virginia and Leonard Woolf. Directed by Robin Phillips. Book Now.

HER MAJESTY'S. 930 6606 S cc Eves. 8. Wed. 3. Sat. 5 & 8.15. MATS HALF PRICE. Grp Sales Box Office 379 6061.
LAST WEEK—ENDS SAT!
"ALL IN ALL THE BEST THING TO HAVE HAPPENED TO THE WEST END IN A VERY LONG TIME. A TOTAL AND UTTER DELIGHT" Punch.
THE STREETS OF LONDON
by Dion Boucicault
"The Whole Theatre Cheered" Daily Telegraph.
"A MUSICAL FEAST" Now! "Timely and what is more a great deal of fun" D. Mail "PRACTISE HISSING AND BOOK NOW!" E. News.

KING'S HEAD 226 1916. Opens ton't. Dinner 6.30, show 7.30. Subs dinner 7, show 8. DAFFODILS—The Barrow Poets.

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH cc 01-741 2311. From Thur eves 7.30 HOBSON'S CHOICE. Cast includes Arthur Lowe, Julia McKenzie, Ronald Pickup.
LYRIC STUDIO: Ends Sat! Evgs 8.30 HERE'S A FUNNY THING. John Bardon as Max Miller "... a rewarding and hilarious evening" Gdn. From Mon MARIKA'S CAFE THEATRE with Marika Rivera.

LYRIC S cc 01-437 3686. evgs 8.0 Mat Wed 3.0, Sat 5.30, 8.30.
DINSDALE LANDEN NICOLA PAGETT
in ALAN AYCKBOURN'S
TAKING STEPS
"A VERY FUNNY EVENING. I ENJOYED MYSELF ENORMOUSLY" Evening News.
"THE BEST FARCE IN TOWN"—Punch.

LYTTELTON (NTs proscenium stage) Ton't, tomor 7.15 THE PROVOKED WIFE by John Vanbrugh (not The Caretaker as in leaflet).

NATIONAL THEATRE S cc 928 2252 FOR REPERTOIRE SEE SEPARATE ENTRIES UNDER OLIVIER/LYTTELTON/COTTESLOE. Car park. Restaurant 928 2033. Credit card bkgs. 928 5933. TOURS OF THE BUILDING daily (incl. backstage) £1.50. Info. 633 0880.

OLD VIC. 928 7616. cc 261 1821 "S". Until 14 Feb., Mon. to Sat. Eves. at 7.30. Wed & Sat. 2.00 (Tomor Mat Cancelled) THE RELAPSE by Sir John Vanbrugh.

OLIVIER (NTs open stage): Ton't 6 pm (note early start) MAN AND SUPERMAN (including "Don Juan in Hell") by Bernard Shaw. Tomor 7.00 OTHELLO. (Sisterly Feelings must end Feb 6).

PALACE, S cc. 01-437 6834
"OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL EVENING!" Daily Mail.
Rodger's & Hammerstein's
OKLAHOMA!
"A MAGICAL MUSICAL EXPERIENCE" S. Times.
Evenings 7.30. Mats Wed. Sat. 3.00. For group bookings 01-379 6061. Better selection of seats available Mon.-Thur.

PALLADIUM 01-437 7373. Evgs 7.30. Mats Tues, Wed, Thur & Sat. at 2.45. JIM DAVIDSON, MOLLIE SUGDEN, WINDSOR DAVIES, MELVYN HAYES, CLIVE DUNN, LIONEL BLAIR in
DICK WHITTINGTON
"An evening of glitter ... I can't remember a better pantomime at the Palladium" J. Tinker D. Mail. Book now. Box Office and all agents. Credit cards accepted. Group sales box office 379 6061. FORTHCOMING ATTRACTION THE LIBERACE SHOW '81 Starring "MR SHOWMANSHIP"
LIBERACE
with supporting company OPENS APRIL 28th for 2 weeks only. BOX OFFICE NOW OPEN

PALLADIUM 01-437 7373. Opening June 11 (Special Previews May 29).
MICHAEL CRAWFORD
BARNUM
THE SMASH HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL. Postal booking now open.

PHOENIX c.c. 01-836 2294/5. Credit Card Bookings 01-836 8611.
THAT'S SHOWBIZ!
The Sensational Variety Spectacular. OPENS FEB. 11TH AT 7.00. Sub. Twice Daily at 6.00 & 8.30. Prices: £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50.

PICCADILLY S 437 4506 cc 379 6565. Group Bkgs 379 6061/836 3962. Mon.-Fri. 8. Mat. Wed. 3. Sat 6 & 8.40 Stalls from £2.90
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE CO.
In Willy Russell's new comedy
EDUCATING RITA
COMEDY OF THE YEAR SWET AWARD 1980
JULIE WALTERS MOST PROMISING ACTRESS DRAMA CRITICS' AWARD 1980
"SPLENDID THEATRE EVENING QUITE ASTOUNDING"—Time Out.
"A MARVELLOUS PLAY, HILARIOUS. IT SENT ME OUT MOVED, EXCITED & EXHILARATED" S. Tms.
RSC also at Aldwych/Warehouse.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE 930 8681. Credit Card bookings 930 0846.
PAUL DANIELS in
IT'S MAGIC
"TRIUMPH" Fin. Times. "A WINNER" Variety. "PURE MAGIC" Sun. Mirror. Mon.-Thurs. 8.0. Fri. & Sat. 6 & 8.45. Easter perfs.: Good Friday as normal. EXTRA MATS 20th & 21st APRIL AT 3.0.

PRINCE EDWARD. S cc Box Off. 437 6877. cc Hotline 439 8499. Grp. sales 379 6061. Eves 8.0. Mat. Thur. (Economy price) & Sat. 3.0.
EVITA
by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber. Dir. by Harold Prince.

QUEENS S cc 01-734 1166 01-439 3849 01-439 4031.
PENELOPE KEITH
Peter JEFFREY Barbara FERRIS
MOVING
A new play by Stanley Price. Directed by Robert Chetwyn
Evenings 8.0. Mat Wed 3.0. Sat 5.0 & 8.15 Grp Sales 379 6061 "STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART ... A FUNNY AND MOVING STORY OF SELLING A HOUSE" Daily Mail.

RAYMOND REVUEBAR cc 734 1593. At 7, 9, 11 p.m. Open Suns. Paul Raymond presents THE FESTIVAL OF EROTICA. New Acts New Girls! New Thrills! 23rd sensational year! Fully air conditioned.

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS. Crisp Road. W6. 748 3354. Ton't at 7, tomor to Sun at 7.30. Direct from Judson Memorial Church, New York —David Vaughan & Al Carmines in A WINTER GARLAND OF SONGS OLD & NEW.

ROUND HOUSE 267 2564. Scarborough Theatre in the Round in SUBURBAN STRAINS. A musical play by ALAN AYCKBOURN composed by PAUL TODD. Reduced Price Prevs 2-4 Feb at 8. Opens 5 Feb 7. Subs Evgs 8. Mats Thurs & Sat 2.30.

ROYAL COURT S cc 730 1745.
TOUCHED
By Stephen Lowe. Evgs. 8. Mon. all seats £2. "Beautifully written piece ... the performances are superb" Gdn.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE UPSTAIRS 730 2554. FOUR IN A MILLION devised & Dir. by Les Blair. Evgs 7.30.

SAVOY THEATRE 01-836 8888.
JOHN ALDERTON PAULINE COLLINS
"PLAY OFF EACH OTHER BEAUTIFULLY ... TOUCHING, FUNNY AND VERY MUCH ALIVE" Gdn.
in Charles Dyer's comedy
RATTLE OF A SIMPLE MAN
"COULD HAVE BEEN SCRIPTED FOR THEM" Times. "A THEATRICAL GEM" The People. Mon.-Thurs. 8.0. Fri. & Sat. 8.45. Mat. Sat. 5.45. Reduced Group Bookings 836 3092. Credit Card bookings. Only 839 7516 (9.30 a.m.-6.00 p.m. Sats 9.30 a.m.-4.30 p.m.). Season extended.

SHAW, 01-388 1394
SHORT SEASON ONLY!
GOTCHA
and
KILLING TIME
by Barrie Keeffe
Opens Tonight at 7.00. Subs. Evgs. 7.30

SHAW 01-388 1394
SHORT SEASON ONLY!
GOTCHA and KILLING TIME
by Barrie Keeffe
Evgs. 7.30

ST. MARTIN'S, cc 836 1443. Evgs. 8. Tue. 2.45. Sats. 5 & 8.
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
THE MOUSETRAP
29th YEAR

STRAND cc 01-836 2660, 01-836 4143. Evs. 8.0. Thurs. 3.0. Sats 5.30 & 8.30.
NO SEX PLEASE WE'RE BRITISH
Directed by Allan Davis
Group sales box office 379 6061

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789) 292271. Amex Cards (0789) 297129. Info (0789) 69191. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in
RICHARD III
Tonight: 7.30. "The RSC has laid out all its treasures" F. Times. HAMLET Tomor. 7.30. Thu. 1.30. Fri. 7.30. RICHARD II. Thu. 7.30. Sat. 2.00. Season ends Sat.

SHAFTESBURY, cc Shaftesbury Ave., W.C.2. Tel. Box Office 01-836 6596 or 01-836 4255. Credit Card booking only 01-839 7816 or 01-839 4682 (9.30-6.00. Sats. 9.30-4.30) Group bookings only 01-839 3092
TOM CONTI & GEMMA CRAVEN
THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG
GEMMA CRAVEN ACTRESS OF THE YEAR IN A MUSICAL WEST-END THEATRE AWARDS.
"This show is a real stunner. Two of the most engaging performances in London." D. Mail. It possible book at least 28 days in advance by post. Send S.A.E. and cheque. Prices: Stalls & Royal Circle £8.00, £6.50, £5.00. Circle £3.50 (£1.00 seats at Box Office) (OAP's £4.00 Wed. Mats. best seats, Student Standby £4.00) Mon.-Fri. Evgs. 8.0 Mats. Wed. 3.0. Sats. 5.0 & 8.30. (Some good seats available Wed. Mats.). No seats available Sat. 2nd performances until April.

THEATRE ROYAL, Drury Lane. Tel. 01-836 8108
THE BEST LITTLE WHORE HOUSE IN TEXAS
Opens Feb. 26 at 7.00. Reduced price previews Feb 21, 23, 24, 25 at 8.00.

TRICYCLE THEATRE, 269 Kilburn High Rd, N.W.6 328 8626. Crucible Theatre's Production of BLACK BALL GAME by Don Webb "It's brilliant" Gdn. "Don Webb's first stage play is a dazzler" New Statesman. Eves. 8 p.m. Tomor. 7 p.m.

VAUDEVILLE S CC 01-836 9988. Twice daily 2.45 & 7.45. Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's SMASH HIT MUSICAL
JOSEPH
AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT
GRP SALES 379 6061.
"A DREAM OF A SHOW" D. Ex. "SIMPLY WONDERFUL" BBC

VICTORIA PALACE cc 01-828 4735/6. 01-834 1317. Evgs. 7.30. Wednesday & Saturday 2.45. Group Sales 01-379 6061.
ANNIE
"UNBEATABLE FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT" Observer.

WAREHOUSE. Donmar Theatre. Earlham Street, Covent Garden. Box Office. 836 6808. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY Ton't. Tomor. Thur. 7.30. TELEVISION TIMES by Peter Prince. "Funny and constantly diverting ... carried through with splendid attack" T.L.S. All seats £3.50 Students £2.00 in advance from Aldwych Box Office.

WESTMINSTER. S. CC. 834 0283 Hugh Manning as C. S. Lewis in
SONG OF THE LION
Directed by David William
"TRULY IMPRESSIVE" Times. "SPELLBINDING" S.Telegraph. Evenings 7.45 till Feb. 7.

WINDMILL THEATRE cc 01-437 6312. Twice nightly at 8.0 & 10.0. Sunday 6.0 & 8.0 PAUL RAYMOND presents RIP OFF. Hotter than ever for 1981. The erotic experience of the modern era. 5th Great Year.

WYNDHAM'S. S 836 3028. cc 379 6565. Red. price. Gps 836 3962. Mon.-Fri 8.00. Sat. 6 & 8.40.
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST
"Exactly the shot in the arm that the West End needed" S Times. "One of the funniest shows London has seen in a very long time" Punch. "Hilarious" D.Tel.

YOUNG VIC 928 6363. Ton't. Sat 7.30. Wed 7.0 PYGMALION. Thur. Fri 7.30 ROSENCRANTZ.

TALK OF THE TOWN. 01-734 5051. Air-conditioning. Credit cards. LONDON'S GREAT NIGHT OUT From 8.00. Dining & Dancing 9.30 SUPER REVUE
"BUBBLY"
at 11: VINCE HILL
DANCING TILL 1 A.M.

CINEMAS

ACADEMY 1. 437 2981. 4th month Joseph Losey's film of Mozart's DON GIOVANNI (A) perfs. 1.00 (not Sun.), 4.10, 7.40.
ACADEMY 2. 437 5129. Alain Resnais' MY AMERICAN UNCLE (A). Progs. 1.10, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.
ACADEMY 3. 437 8819. Cocteau's ORPHEE (A) and Renoir's PARTIE DE CAMPAGNE (A) Progs. 5.45, 8.15. Sats., Suns. also 3.15.
CAMDEN PLAZA. Camden Town 485 2443 (opp. Tube). GODARD'S SLOW MOTION (Sauve Qui Peut La Vie) (X). 3.30, 5.20, 7.10, 9.10. Ends 28 Jan.
COLUMBIA, Shaftesbury Ave. (734 5414) THE BLUE LAGOON (AA) cont. progs. dly at 2.30, 4.40, 6.40, 8.40.
CURZON, Curzon St. W1. 499 3737 BURT LANCASTER, SUSAN SARANDON in LOUIS MALLE'S ATLANTIC CITY (AA). Film at 2.0 (not Sun), 4.05, 6.20, 8.40.
DOMINION. Tott. Court Rd. (580 9562). THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK (U). Sep. progs. 2.30, 7.40.
EMPIRE, Leicester Square. 437 1234 Seats bookable for last evening perfs. Mon-Fri. and all perfs. Sat. and Sun. (not late night shows) at the box office (11 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon-Sat) or by post. No telephone bookings. THE BALTIMORE BULLET (A). Sep. progs. daily 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. Now RITZ, Leicester Square WILLIE & PHIL (X). Sep. progs. daily 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.
GATE CINEMA. Nott Hill 221 0220 727 5750 STARDUST MEMORIES (AA). 1.00, 2.45, 4.15, 6.00, 7.45, 9.30 THE PARTY (U) & THE PINK PANTHER (A) 11.15 pm.
GATE TWO CINEMA. 837 8402 1177 Russ Sq Tube. Exclusive presentation of Bette Midler's THE ROSE (X) 1.30, 3.50, 6.10, 8.40 NEW YORK NEW YORK (A) & WHERE'S POPPA? (X). 11 pm. Lic'd bar.
GATE THREE CINEMA. 262 1201/485 2416 Camden Twn Tb. WILLIE & PHIL (X) 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00. Lic'd Bar
GATE MAYFAIR 493 2031 MAYFAIR HOTEL, Stratton St Green Park Tube. KAGEMUSHA (A). 5.30, 8.30. Seats Bookable after 5 p.m.
LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE (930 5252). Jack Lemmon in TRIBUTE (AA). Sep Progs Dly (inc Sun). Drs Open 2.10, 5.10, 8.10. Seat Bookable W/Ends & Last Eve. prog.
MINEMA 45 Knightsbridge 235-4225 6. Andrey Tarkovsky's "MIRROR" (U) (Russian dialogue—English subtitles). Daily: 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00. Late Night Show Fri & Sat 11.00 p.m.
ODEON HAYMARKET (930 2738 2771) Roy Scheider in a Bob Fosse Film ALL THAT JAZZ (X). Sep. progs. Dly. 1.30, 4.40, 8.00.
ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (930 6111) THE DOGS OF WAR (AA). Sep Progs. Drs. Open Dly. 1.30, 4.30, 7.45
ODEON ST. MARTIN'S LANE. BEING THERE (AA). For info 240 0071. Box Office 836 0691. Sep Progs. Dly 1.50 (not Sun), 5.00, 8.10.
ODEON MARBLE ARCH, W2 (723 2011-2). HAWK THE SLAYER (A). Sep. Progs. Drs. Open Dly. 1.45 (not Sun.), 4.30, 7.30. Evening programmes & Weekends may be booked in advance.
PLAZA 1, 2, 3, 4 off Piccadilly Circus. 437 1234. Advance booking facilities same as EMPIRE Leicester Square.
Walter Matthau Glenda Jackson **1. HOPSCOTCH (AA). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns.), 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.
**2. AIRPLANE (A). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns.), 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00.
*3. LIFE OF BRIAN (AA). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns.), 3.30, 6.00, 8.35.
*4. SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES (A). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns.), 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.
**No Smoking Area.
*No Smoking.
PRINCE CHARLES, Leic. Sq. 437 8181. British Premiere Exclusive Presentation CALIGULA (X). Sep perfs Dly (inc Sun.) 2.15, 5.30, 8.45. Late show Fri & Sat 11.55 Seats bkble Lic'd bar.
SCREEN ON THE HILL. 435 3366 Woody Allen, STARDUST MEMORIES (AA). 3.20, 5.15, 7.10, 9.15. Ring 435 9787 after 3 p.m. for phone bookings.
STUDIO 3. Oxford Circus. 437 3300. Lic'd Bar. THE DEER HUNTER (X). 12.45, 4.05, 7.30. Late Show Sat. 10.50.

EVENTS

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ANTHONY d'OFFAY, 9 Dering St., W.1. British Art 1900-1980.
BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD. Cambridge Heath Road, E2. CHAD VALLEY BOARD GAMES 1887-1935. Until March 1. Weekdays 10-6. Suns. 2.30-6. Closed Fridays. Adm. free
BLOND FINE ART, 33 Sackville St., W.1. 437 1230. British Figure Drawings 1900-1950. Until February 7.
BONNARD TO ZORN
150th exhibition of fine 19th & 20th Century etchings & lithographs. Illus. cat. 75p. Mon-Fri 10-6. Sat 10.30-1.
WILLIAM WESTON GALLERY
7 Royal Arcade, Albemarle St. W1
BRITISH LIBRARY (in Brit. Museum). BENEDICTINES IN BRITAIN. Until 1 Feb. GEORGE ELIOT. Until 26 April. TUDOR MAP-MAKING. Until 31 Dec. Wkdys. 10-5. Suns. 2.30-6. Adm. free
BROWSE & DARBY, 19 Cork St. 734 7984 Keith Grant.
CRANE KALMAN GALLERY, 178 Brompton Rd., SW3. 584 7566. FINE ENGLISH AND EUROPEAN PAINTINGS (20th Cent.) Mon.-Fri 10-6. Sats 10-4.
CRANE GALLERY, 171a Sloane St. (1st Floor), SW1 235 2464. Paintings, Furniture, Quilts, Decoys and AMERICANA. Perhaps the most beautiful and unusual new gallery in London for those interested in rare items for their homes. Daily 10-6. Sats 10-4.
DRIAN GALLERIES, 7 Porchester Place, W2. Paintings by Henri Cerceau. Till 3rd Feb 01-723 9473
FINE ART SOCIETY
148 New Bond Street, W.1.
01-629 5116
GLUCK
LEFEVRE GALLERY: 30 Bruton St., W.1. 01-493 1572/3. Twentieth Century Works on View. Mon-Fri 10-5.
LUMLEY CAZALET, 24 Davies St., W1. 499 5058. Late 19th and 20th Century Original Prints.
MARLBOROUGH, 6 Albermale St., W.1. JOHN WONNACOTT First London Exhibition 17. Until Feb 5th.
MARSHALL SPINK, 18 Albemarle St., W.1. A.P.T. inc. presents three centuries of flower and still life paintings 1600-1900. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursdays until 9 p.m. Saturday until 1 p.m.
PATRICK SEALE GALLERY, 3 Motcomb St., Belgravia, SW1. Paintings by EMILIE CHARMY. Until end Jan 01-235 0934.
REDFERN GALLERY ADRIAN HEATH. New Paintings 1978-80 January 28-February 25. 20 Cork Street, London W1 Mon-Fri. 10-5.30. Sats 10-12.30.
ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS
Piccadilly, W.1.
A NEW SPIRIT IN PAINTING
Until 18 March. Open dly. 10-6. Adm £2.00 Concessionary rate £1.40—O.A.P.s, students, groups over 10—and until 1.45 p.m. Suns.
TARANMAN, 236 Brompton Road, SW3. Tel: 587 7858. GENEVIEVE ASSE Suite Celtique: Oils on Paper. Mon-Fri 10-6. Sat 10-4.
THE COTTAGE GALLERY, 9 Hereford Rd, W.2. 01-221 4578 German Expressionists. Selected drawings and graphics. Tues.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 11-5.
THEO WADDINGTON, 25 Cork St., London, W.1. Tel: 734 3534. A Selection of works by Jack B. Yeats—until 7th February.
VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM, S. Ken. PRINCELY MAGNIFICENCE: Court Jewels of the Renaissance 1500-1630. Until 1 February. Adm. £1.50. WOLPE AT THE V & A. Until 1 February. GANYMED: PRINTING, PUBLISHING, DESIGN. Until 1 February. Wkdys. 10-5.30. Suns. 2.30-5.30. Closed Fridays.
REDFERN GALLERY ADRIAN HEATH New Paintings 1978-80 28 January-25 February 20 Cork Street, London, W.1. Mon.-Fri. 10-5.30. Sats. 10-12.30.
10 YOUNG PAINTERS FROM BERLIN, 21 Jan.-26 Feb. Mon-Fri. 12-8 pm. Sats 10 am-1 pm. Geothe Inst. Exhibition Rd, SW7.

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BIRTHS

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SUSAN J.—May the wombats keep wandering.—Love, Rob.

MARRIAGES

DEATHS

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 22

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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THE ROYAL SOCIETY of Literature of the United Kingdom, 1 Hyde Park Gardens, London, W2, hereby gives notice of its intention to publish a collection of letters written by John Hamil-

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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IN MEMORIAM

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MEMORIAL SERVICES

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEASONAL SALES

U.K. HOLIDAYS

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SONIA STEVENSON Horn Of Plenty Courses for Sauces.—See Services.

REMEMBER A RELATIVE or friend with an "In Memoriam" gift to the National Benevolent Fund for the Aged, 12, Liverpool Street, London, EC2, and so give happiness to a needy and lonely old person.

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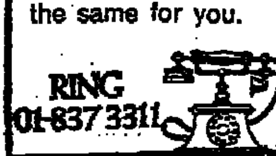

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(continued on page 22)

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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,434

ACROSS

1 Disinclined to drop a line (5).
4 Questions we are all asked (9).
9 Find place in restaurant with easy access (3-2-4).
10 Starched dress I would put on (5).
11 Course suggested by attorney out West (5).
12 Cushion from Gustav in outlandish Peru (9).
13 Not quite drawing back, but he's close (7).
15 Search revealing smuggled liquor (7).
18 The city of Rome is like a triangle (7).
20 Waves are level, receding too much (7).
21 Dragons, if put out, show aplomb (4-5).
23 Time with one nymph (5).
25 Ample friend of Pooh and Golly! (5).
26 Part of theatre rector has renovated (9).
27 Father's source of electricity (9).
28 Investigate a sett—badger's there (5).

DOWN

1 Keeping watch, soldier's beset by airborne and horse-borne weapons (9).
2 Testy—except when he's messing about in boats? (5).
3 Record can, about midday, be amusing (9).
4 Recover quickly—be up and about outside (7).
5 He's not been up long (7).
6 Robots cover nearly all country (5).
7 Sleep no more, grim thane! Novel way to avoid it (9).
8 Involved in casting, he is said to be deaf (5).
14 5 Cape Coloured (9).
16 Onward in this direction (5-4).
17 Pool that's said to arouse a water-bird (9).
19 Cave watcher (4-3).
20 Cocktail is shaken and hurried up (7).
21 Namely, 28 neck (5).
22 Part of theatre you once went in for (5).
24 An extremist, last month I quit the IRA (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,433

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Printed and Published by Times Newspapers Limited at New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ, England. Telephone: 01-837 1234. Tuesday, January 27, 1981. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

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